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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the CNMI lease one of its Northern Islands to Japan, which plans to use it as dumping/recycling site for debris from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA

Soldiers from rival North and South Korea eye one another across a thin strip of no man's land that–just barely–keeps their armies apart. The tension, they insist on both sides, is palpable.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Apple CEO Tim Cook has long seen as the humorless and unemotional guy running the show from behind the scenes. But he is beginning to reveal a more assertive and eloquent side, hinting that he's learning to shoulder more of Steve Jobs' role as a front man and leader.

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LIFE & STYLE

In a move to inject new life into its kookiness, "30 Rock" is going live this week. It will be the second such outing for the NBC comedy, which is normally a polished, single-camera filmed affair.

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Japanese investors keen on mining pozzolan on Pagan. PAGE 2
Fitial revises proposed redirected CIP funds from $4.35M to $3.5M. PAGE 3

BILL SPELLS DOOM TO US TERRITORIES

Governors, delegates fail to block cuts in Medicaid funds

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A unified voice from U.S. territorial governors and delegates failed to block Republicans from reducing Medicaid funding for the territories.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that Republicans on the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee voted to take away some $100 million in Medicaid funding from the CNMI and increase the CNMI's local match by 11 percent.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joined on Tuesday Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. John P. de Jongh Jr., Puerto Rico Gov. Luis G. Fortuno, and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono in asking the Energy and Commerce Committee "to vote 'no' on de-funding the territories."

"As governors serving the over 4.5 million Americans who live in the Territories of the United States, we are writing in strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the funding provided to the Territories under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," Fitial and the other governors said.

» **CNMI would lose $100M, local match would increase to 11%**

But the five territorial governors' plea fell on deaf ears as Republicans voted to de-fund the territories.

The bill repeals a provision of the Affordable Care Act that provided for $6.3 billion in additional funding for Medicaid in the territories from Fiscal Year 2011 through 2019, and increased the territories' Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 50 percent to 55 percent.

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Mafnas says he never harassed or threatened to shoot anybody

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

On-leave Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas has stated that he never harassed or threatened to shoot anybody.

Mafnas

"My action was in the scope of the law and for and in the interest of the public and the department," said Mafnas in response to a question by Office of the Attorney General chief investigator Vicente Babauta if he ever mentioned that he's going to shoot anybody in three separate incidents.

The incidents that Babauta was referring to were Mafnas' "encounter" with a security guard at Bird Island Lookout, a dive instructor at the Grotto, and a security guard at Sui-

See MAFNAS on Page 4

GOP's Demapan: I'm taking this challenge to the next level

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Dr. Ignacia Demapan, an educator for 23 years, officially accepted on Wednesday night the Republican Party's nomination of her as their candidate for delegate to the U.S. Congress in the Nov. 6 election.

Demapan, the current principal of Kagman Elementary School, accepted the nomination before a considerable crowd of Republicans and their supporters including party chairman Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, her father former Saipan mayor Juan B. Tudela, and her husband of 35 years Antonio S. Demapan.

The GOP's gathering was held at the governor's private residence in Gualo Rai.

"I wanted to do something different," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* after giving a speech. "I guess I already felt that what I am doing currently, I have done enough and I like to take it at the next level."

Demapan said the lack of political experience wouldn't be a problem.

"I don't think lack of political experience should make a person not do what they think that they can do. I believe that with your education, it's possible to do anything and nothing is stopping me. I

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Dr. Ignacia Demapan, seated-right, an educator for 23 years, joins Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated-second from right, her father former Saipan mayor Juan Tudela, seated-second from left, and other members of the Republican Party pose for a photo after she officially accepted their nomination for her to run as delegate in November, during a well-attended gathering Wednesday, night at the governor's private residence in Gualo Rai.

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INSTEAD OF BRINGING IN TSUNAMI DEBRIS

Japanese investors interested in mining pozzolan on Pagan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos pressed Japanese investors yesterday about their decision to pick Pagan over other Northern Islands to bring tons of tsunami debris from Japan, the visiting businessmen had a startling answer: to be able to mine millions of tons of pozzolan on the island and ship them off to Japan.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who was also in the same meeting with Fitial and Inos, later said that the CNMI will be able to generate more revenue from accepting millions of metric tons of tsunami debris from Japan than in selling pozzolan from Pagan.

Pozzolan is a siliceous volcanic ash used to produce hydraulic cement.

"We can find other buyers of pozzolan, but in my opinion we'll get much more from bringing in debris from Japan. The Japanese government pays for the disposal of tsunami debris. So this private company is the one talking to the Japanese prefectures that still could not recover because they don't know where to put the debris," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune.*

Isamu Tokuichi, executive director of Asia Mining Development PTE Ltd., and Yukio Oita, chief executive officer and representative director of Kankyo Kaizen Kiko Co. Ltd, led a six-member investor team in meeting with Fitial, Inos, and Tenorio on Capital Hill.

Tenorio, after the meeting, said Tokuichi and the rest of the group are firm in buying tons of pozzolan and sell them in Japan.

Tokuichi's Asia Mining Development is willing to invest some $20 million in equipment alone to mine pozzolan on Pagan.

But to offset hefty costs of shipping tons of pozzolan, these Japanese investors are willing to bring tons of tsunami debris from different tsunami-ravaged Japanese prefectures—for a fee—on their way to Pagan.

Inos, in an interview after the meeting, said these "ideas" from the visiting Japanese investors are interesting.

But he said the Fitial administration has not received any business plan from the group.

"We don't have anything from them. So we asked them to give is some kind of project plan, business plan," Inos said in an interview after signing 10 of 11 proclamations yesterday afternoon.

Inos said the Fitial administration is not rendering any decision just yet.

"We didn't tell them 'no', if that's what you mean, but we didn't tell them 'yes' either," he added.

He said the administration would like to know more about the types of materials the Japanese investors plan to bring and international laws governing transportation of debris from one country to another, among other things.

The investors reiterated that they would bring non-toxic and non-radioactive debris from the March 2011 tsunami in Japan.

"They're only interested in Pagan, and they want to buy pozzolan, which will be loaded into ships that will be empty after bringing debris to the island," Tenorio said.

Tenorio, a former governor

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Fitial revises proposed redirected CIP funds from $4.35M to $3.5M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wrote a second letter to Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony M. Babauta, reducing the amount of capital improvement project funds he wants redirected—from $4.35 million to $3.5 million—as well as to change the "redirected use" from paying utility bills and paying the salaries of doctors and nurses to that of helping the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. comply with a consent order.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that Fitial's April 16th letter to OIA's Babauta "supersedes" the Feb. 18th letter.

The stated purpose also changed, he said.

But just the same, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs is still reviewing Fitial's letter requesting for redirection of CIP funds from the Puerto Rico Dump closure project.

OIA said on Wednesday that CIP funds "cannot be used for operational expenses of the CNMI government."

Fitial's first request letter wanted to use over $4.35 million in redirected CIP funds to pay public school and hospital "utility costs," "housing allotments for doctors and nurses," and hospital "payroll allotments."

The governor's second letter asks OIA's Babauta to redirect $3.5 million in 2006, 2007 and 2008 grant awards for the Puerto Rico Dump closure project to CUC, specifically for its capital improvement requirements "related to compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Consent Order."

Fitial

"In order to ensure appropriate funding of the Puerto Rico Dump closure project, it is the Commonwealth's intent to restore these redirected funds with an amended FY 2013 CIP grant application," Fitial told Babauta in a one-page letter.

The proposed redirection of $3.5 million includes $87,294 previously given to the Puerto Rico Dump closure project in grant year 2006; $2,990,160 from 2007; and $422,546 from 2008.

Fitial asks OIA to provide flexibility to the CNMI in the use of grant awards "in order to meet critical needs of the community."

Rebecca Zepeda, policy advisor at OIA, earlier told Saipan Tribune in an email interview that Fitial's request "is still under consideration."

"However, OIA recognizes that a recipient's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) priorities may change due to unforeseen circumstances. As a result, from time to time, CIP funds could be requested for redirection from their original purpose to facilitate the efficient and effective use of grant funds," she said.

Zepeda said the CNMI currently has $52 million in unspent CIP funds.

At $52 million, the CNMI is the territory with the highest amount of unspent CIP funds, Zepeda said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said that by end-September, the CNMI will have a total of unspent CIP funds of $54 million.

JAPANESE

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and speaker, said the Japanese investors are expected to share more about their plans after they fly from Pagan today.

"They intend to lease the whole island but maybe after their trip to Pagan and realize it's a big island, they might just opt to lease only a portion of it… They were talking about millions of metric tons of debris," Tenorio added.

Tenorio said if this undertaking gets off the ground, it would mean millions of dollars of fresh revenues for the CNMI's ailing economy and also help Japan in its recovery.

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May is Older Americans Month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The CNMI joins the rest of the United States in celebrating the contributions and achievements of the elderly population as the entire nation observes May as Older Americans Month/Mes Man'amko/Maramal Tuufey.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday signed the proclamation at the Office on Aging, kicking off the month-long celebration also aimed at encouraging active lifestyles and community involvement among the islands' older adults aged 60 and older, who now total 4,766.

"I encourage every citizen to take time this month to honor our older citizens through enjoyable interactions such as sports, games, contests, and other forms of play," Inos said as he signed the proclamation.

Aging Center client Ana T. Perry read the proclamation in Chamorro, while Saipan Seniors Advisory Council treasurer Christiana Michael and president Teresita Sorroza read it in Carolinian and English, respectively.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Never Too Old to Play."

"Indeed, we are never too old to fulfill our heart's desire," said council vice president Maria T. Salinas. "I hope that our people will continue to give us our well-deserved recognition and respect for the reason that it is vital to continue the tradition and respect for the elders."

Aging director Rose Mondala, for her part, said that the theme highlights the importance of having the man'amko stay healthy, "engaged" and "active" in their own lives and the communities to which they belong.

"I am certain that we will continue to strive and improve our program specifically to allow our clients to remain healthy," she added.

Besides Aging Center clients and staff, other elected officials and government employees also witnessed yesterday's ceremony, including former Aging director and incumbent Rep. Joseph Palacios, special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, representatives of Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao.

Faisao, in his remarks, noted that the administration is doing its part to work with its various partners and providers to ensure that the *man'amko* have access to quality and affordable healthcare—a preventive measure to address non-communicable and chronic diseases that affect the elderly.

"And the work we do to support healthy aging also presents us with an opportunity to reshape our communities to promote better health at every age, so that every *man'amko* in the CNMI is never too old to play," he said.

To celebrate Older Americans Month, the Office on Aging has lined up several activities for the *man'amko*, including a ground golf tournament, Man'amko Take over Day, health challenge, pool tournament, talent competition, Conference on Aging, and the Man'amko King & Queen.

DEMAPAN

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want to do it and that's my desire. I'm taking this challenge to the next level," she added.

In her prepared speech, Demapan said her focus will be education, healthcare, energy, and the economy.

"A lot of legislation has already been enacted but that doesn't mean there's no room for improvement," she said.

So far, Demapan is the only one challenging two-term Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP).

Fitial and Sablan do not see eye-to-eye on a host of issues. Fitial wanted to have Sablan replaced with a Republican to be aligned with the national GOP, among other things. Sablan has been running as an independent, but he aligns with the Democrats in U.S. Congress.

The governor said Demapan is modest about her achievements.

"I think that if people would compare the qualities that she possesses with that of the incumbent, I'm sure there's a big gap," Fitial said in an interview with reporters at the GOP gathering.

Fitial said Demapan "respects people's person, she doesn't grandstand, she's very humble."

"I hope that she will get the confidence of the majority of the people because we really need somebody who understands the challenges that we have. I am very pleased that she finally decided to take on this challenge," he said.

The governor also said Demapan, fondly called "Acha," is not a newcomer to politics.

"She has more experience in politics than a lot of people that you think because her father has been in politics for a long time and she's been running his campaign," he added.

Demapan's husband Antonio, in a separate interview, said he's proud of his wife's decision to run for office and that "the whole family supports her."

"She's going to have a landslide win. She also has lots of family on Rota," the candidate's husband said.

He added that his wife is a good person, honest, and hardworking.

"Earning a PhD (a doctorate degree) while working full-time as a principal, that's a hardworking lady," her husband said.

The GOP earlier picked Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales as their delegate candidate but he declined "for personal reasons."

Demapan, who has been an educator for 23 years, began as a teacher at San Antonio Elementary School and Marianas High School before becoming a vice principal at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. She served as vice principal and acting principal at Tanapag Elementary School. In 2000, she became principal at Kagman Elementary School. She earned her doctorate in psychology last year.

GOVERNORS

From Page 1

Sablan, in a statement yesterday, said the Republican legislation strips Medicaid funding from all the U.S. territories that they won in health care reform—Obamacare—when Democrats led Congress in 2010.

"With the Commonwealth Health Center in serious jeopardy, with little kids getting turned away from the dentist, there could not be a worse time for Republicans to steal away our Medicaid money. But once again, it is the poor and the weak who take the hit," said Sablan, who has been running as independent but aligns himself with Democrats.

Medicaid is the federal health care program for those with low income.

Some 14,700 people in the Marianas, who cannot afford care, are eligible for hospital care, outpatient services, and prescription drugs through Medicaid.

CNMI officials expressed disappointment with the loss of millions of funding for healthcare.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, said providing healthcare would become more difficult as a result of Medicaid funding cuts.

"Even now, we are experiencing very difficult time to give proper health service," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said territorial delegates worked together to block the legislation.

But he said Republicans killed an amendment offered by Donna Christensen (D-Virgin Islands), who is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, on a straight party line vote.

Sablan said 30 Republicans voted to slash Medicaid for the territories by 65 percent over the coming decade.

He said the 21 Committee Democrats voted to protect the territorial Medicaid money and maintain the current 55-45 federal-local match.

"As with last week's vote in the Agriculture Committee to cut food stamps funding our poor families rely on, Republicans in Congress are choosing to balance the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it," Sablan said.

Governors and delegates said Medicaid for the territories has long lagged behind funding for the states, and health in the territories has suffered as a result.

"Instead of working to close the gap between the territories and the rest of the U.S.—as we did in the Democratic-led Congress, the Republican plan is to make the gap wider between those who have adequate medical care and those who have not. How can anyone justify that?" Sablan asked.

The legislation Republicans passed yesterday is part of their effort to repeal Obamacare.

Section 1204 of the health care reform act worked to close the gap in care for the over 4 million Americans in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI by providing $6.3 billion in increased Medicaid funding and increasing the federal share of Medicaid from 50 percent to 55 percent.

Sablan said the new funds became available on July 1, 2011 and the CNMI immediately drew down $8.1 million.

That was on top of $6.4 million already received for fiscal 2011. For fiscal year 2012, the CNMI submitted a budget for another $18.2 million in federal medical aid grants, including $17 million for Medicaid, he said.

Over the next eight years, the CNMI will receive $140 million in Medicaid—three times more than before the President signed the health care reform law in 2010.

"That huge increase for the islands passed Congress without a single Republican vote; and now Republicans want to take that money away," Sablan added.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo also issued a statement yesterday, saying that the Republican attempt to eliminate critical Medicaid funding for the territories shifts the funding problem back to the territories.

"Rather than working with us to remove the cap by decreasing the local match, the Republicans have reduced our funding. This funding has helped to provide critical services for residents in the territories who depend on Medicaid for health coverage, and the loss of these additional funds would negate important progress made toward reducing health disparities among the territories," she said.

Republicans crafted the bill to meet spending targets stipulated in the recently-passed Ryan budget resolution, which requires the Energy and Commerce Committee to reduce the deficit by $96.76 billion over the next decade.

The bill was considered by the full Energy and Commerce Committee yesterday, and is expected to be considered on the House floor in the coming weeks.

Bordallo joined her colleagues from the territories in sending a letter to the Committee chairman to request that he "reconsider" his proposal, which, if enacted, would have many adverse impacts for people residing in the territories.

"We will work to block this bill in the Senate," she added.

MAFNAS

From Page 1

cide Cliff.

Babauta's interview with Mafnas was among the several exhibits included in the OAG's report concerning many allegations of misconduct against Mafnas. Aside from Babauta, Attorney General Edward Buckingham and chief prosecutor Peter Prestley prepared the report.

In the Bird Island Lookout incident, according to a security guard in his complaint that in the morning of May or June 2011 when police were searching for missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, Mafnas arrived on board a Toyota 4Runner and approached him at his post.

Mafnas allegedly told the guard to stop greeting the tourists because he is not a police officer and that this is not the Philippines, Bangladesh, or Nepal.

As the guard tried to explain his duty and assignment at his post, the DPS commissioner told him to keep quiet and that he does not need explanation.

In the Grotto case, the incident happened in September 2011 when the commissioner arrived aboard a white Toyota 4Runner.

Mafnas approached a security guard at his post and inquired about a vehicle parked at the eastern portion of the Grotto parking lot.

When a dive instructor arrived at the area after a few minutes, Mafnas approached and inquired about his license plate sticker.

The Korean explained that someone stole his sticker, but Mafnas told him to be quiet and not explain.

Mafnas allegedly showed handcuffs and told the Korean if he wants to be arrested.

In the Suicide Cliff case, the guard was at his post when Mafnas came aboard a white Toyota 4Runner.

Mafnas approached the guard and allegedly started shouting at him for no apparent reason.

The guard asked what's his name, and Mafnas replied he is the DPS commissioner.

Mafnas asked the guard for his driver's license. As the guard was trying to explain why he parked his car in the parking area, the commissioner kept telling him to shut up and be quiet.

Mafnas allegedly warned the guard to move his car or he would arrest him, handcuff him, then shoot him.

The commissioner allegedly continued telling the guard if he wants to arrested or shot at.

The guard told the detectives he was very disturbed by Mafnas and scared for his life.

In his statements to Babauta, Mafnas had another version regarding the Bird Island Lookout incident. He said he observed the guard's approach to a tourist was intimidating.

Mafnas said he told the guard to approach the tourists with a greeting then go back to his place and write down the license plate number of the vehicles.

In the Grotto case, Mafnas said he told the operator of a truck that he is a police officer and that his vehicle's license plate has no sticker.

Mafnas said he asked the operator to show his driver's license and car registration, but the Korean started talking loud.

Mafnas admitted that he took a handcuff and told the operator he would arrest him if he refuses to provide his license and registration.

Mafnas said when the operator showed the registration, he gave him a warning and told him to clear his registration with the Bureau of Motor Vehicle.

With respect to the Suicide Cliff incident, Mafnas said during the search for then missing Emerita Romero he approached a vehicle parked on the side walk on top of the Cliff.

Mafnas said he got down from his vehicle and met the security guard, while *Marianas Variety* reporter Tammy Doty pulled her car into the parking lot.

Mafnas said he identified himself as a police officer and asked the guard for his driver's license and car registration.

He said the guard was kind of hesitant to produce his license and registration so he told him he will have him arrested if he would not comply with his instruction.

Mafnas said the guard hesitantly surrendered his driver's license and registration. He said the vehicle turned out to have a valid registration and that the guard moved the vehicle to a designated parking area.

Chief investigator Babauta said Doty twice declined to be interviewed.

The OAG report concluded that the Bird Island Lookout case was an interpersonal issue. No explanation was indicated in the report.

OAG, however, explained that a finding of interpersonal issue suggests that a conflict exists, but the nature of the conflict did not adversely affect DPS operations and did not constitute a violation of police or law.

OAG said a finding of an interpersonal issue suggests follow-up and possible training needs.

On the Grotto case, OAG concluded it was an operating issue. OAG said the answer is "no" to the question in this situation whether an individual may properly be arrested or threatened with arrest for a payable traffic offense.

On how to view the commissioner's conduct, OAG said it would be inappropriate for a lower level police officer to threaten a vehicle operator with arrest and that it is also improper when the person engaged in the same activity happens to be the DPS commissioner.

On the Suicide Cliff case, OAG concluded that Mafnas violated investigative standards.

OAG said while not unlawful to be performed by the commissioner, such activities should be undertaken in accordance with applicable standards of a police officer.

"This was not done in this case," the OAG report stated.

On clearing Mafnas of criminal charges, OAG said asking the guard if he wanted to be shot borders on being a law violation, but fell short of such classification.

OAG said Mafnas' offer was posed as a question, and that there was no threat of immediate harm to the security guard, and no allegation that the commissioner was even carrying a visible firearm.

MPLT to stop remittance to general fund beginning FY 2012

The central government will see no transfer of interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust beginning fiscal year 2012 as a result of the millions of monies the trustees provided—and may provide—as loan to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. this year.

MPLT chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero disclosed this during a break in yesterday's board meeting, citing the deferment of funds transfer may go beyond five years depending on the outcome of a bill pending at the Legislature which proposes $7 million additional line of credit for the public hospital.

MPLT is the agency tasked to handle the payments for all public land leases remitted by the Department of Public Lands and which the trustees invest in international markets for higher returns and growth.

Each fiscal year, Deleon Guerrero said MPLT transferred interest income of approximately $2 million to the general fund, which is being used by the government to run essential services.

To date, a total of $4.58 million has already been loaned out to the corporation including the $1.58 million for the federal electronic health record system project.

Deleon Guerrero said that under this loan agreement, the corporation is assigned a 12-month period to pay—either in part or in full at the end of fiscal year—what it drawdown with 7 percent monthly interest.

Because the $4.58 million provided was taken out from the investment fund, this resulted in the suspension of yearly remittance to the general fund for two years—FY 2012 to 2013.

Deleon Guerrero, who supports a pending bill that proposes a $7-million line of credit to CHC—disclosed that if this becomes law, deferment of yearly remittance to the general fund will go beyond two years but five years or beyond as overall loan will be at $11.58 million as what originally proposed for the public hospital.

However, the chairman pointed out that if the corporation makes good on its payment yearly, they have five years to continue the drawdown which means $11.58 million credit line will increase.

The chairman said MPLT last provided funds to the executive branch during a recent power disconnection in the public schools' administrative offices and some areas in the public hospital. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Quitugua is new chair of CDA division

Tom Glenn Quitugua, Rota representative to the Commonwealth Development Authority board, has been elected as the new chair of the agency's private-sector lending arm.

Quitugua

Quitugua received the majority of votes to head CDA's Development Corporation Division during yesterday's board meeting.

DCD is tasked mainly "to initiate, stimulate, and facilitate development of the economy of the Commonwealth for the economic and social advancement of the people of the Commonwealth by making loans and giving financial, technical, and advisory assistance in its discretion to the private sector in the Northern Marianas."

Quitugua, who will serve a one-year term, replaced Marcie Tomokane, Bank of Guam vice president and CNMI regional manager, who was voted to serve as Quitugua's vice chair.

Quitugua and Edwin P. Aldan, Tinian representative to the CDA board, were sworn in last October after their appointments were approved by the Senate.

Board members emphasized at the meeting the importance of DCD, and both Quitugua and Tomokane vowed to work collectively with other board members to ensure that the division achieves its goals and objectives. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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ON LAW DAY PROCLAMATION SIGNING

Manglona says district court will hold community outreach activities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday announced that the district court will conduct for the first time this year its own community outreach activities in celebration of Law Day.

Manglona made the announcement in her brief remarks during a Law Day proclamation signing ceremony at the CNMI Supreme Court courtroom.

"Today [Thursday] marks the 20th anniversary of the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day program. On Monday, May 7, we will celebrate Law Day with our own Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day at the District Court," Manglona said.

The chief judge said that day the district court courthouse will be opened to the children of the court staff and other federal agencies to meet the people who work in these government agencies, and to learn about the purpose and roles they play in the federal justice system.

"We will highlight this occasion with a naturalization ceremony in which we will welcome our newest United States citizens to the American family," she said.

On the proclamation signing, Manglona said she believes it is their mutual interest to spread the word about Law Day and the significance of the courts in maintaining the rule of law.

Manglona thanked the CNMI Judiciary for including the NMI District Court in its community outreach activities, in which she and her two law clerks will be participating in the "judges and lawyers in the courtrooms" program.

Manglona said this year's Law Day Theme "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom," is so important to the courts and more so to the rule of law.

The theme, the chief judge said, succinctly ties the relationship of the courts to the two fundamental values in any civilized and developed community, justice and freedom.

"The challenges that the state courts are facing in these harsh financial times are not limited to the state courts. Nevertheless, the courthouses must remain open to the people who are in need of protection of their rights," Manglona said.

Manglona joined acting CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja, and associate judges David A. Wiseman, Perry B. Inos, and Kenneth L. Govendo in signing a proclamation declaring May 1, 2012 as Law Day. Associate justice John A. Manglona and associate judge Joseph N. Camacho are off-island.

In reading the proclamation, presiding judge Naraja said this year's theme highlights the crucial role of an independent judiciary in the CNMI and the nations.

Naraja said May 1, 2012 marks the 23rd anniversary of the CNMI Supreme Court, "which continues to maintain a judicial excellence and integrity."

In his opening remarks, acting chief justice Castro said as the elected leaders work tirelessly to address the economic situation, the Judiciary and the legal community "take pride in carrying the torch for this year's Law Day and its theme: No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom."

Castro said it is interesting to note that Law Day, which was first proclaimed in 1958 by President Dwight Eisenhower, started as a competitive event during the Cold War between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

After the proclamation signing, Castro administered the attorney's oath for Russell Henry Lorfing and Tiberius Daniel Mocanu who are the newest successful applicants for admission to the NMI Bar.

NMI Bar president Sean Frink in his speech said he has been in the CNMI for 18 years now and that it is a true pleasure to be a member of the CNMI Bar.

Frink said the lawyers' fundamental job is to do justice.

"Remember that the business is to do justice," he advised the newest Bar members.

Hospital's hemodialysis vendor owed $1.6M

»Corporation pays a 'fraction' for four-week delivery of supplies

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta disclosed yesterday that the hospital's hemodialysis unit vendor was owed $1.6 million by the corporation.

He said the bulk of the obligation was absorbed by the then Department of Public Health.

Prior to the corporation takeover in October last year, Babauta revealed that JC Marketing, Inc.—which is the vendor of the unit's supplies for many years—was owed $1.2 million which amount increased to $1.6 million to date.

Because of the scarce financial resources of the hospital, which has no actual budget allocation this fiscal year, obligations not only to vendors but to employees were not met resulting to the continuous rise of the corporation's debts.

But yesterday, the CEO said a "fraction" of the $1.6 million debt to JC Marketing was paid which resulted in the promised delivery of new supplies for the dialysis unit. Babauta refused to say how much it paid the vendor and for how long the new supplies will last.

"CHCC paid a portion of what it owes the vendor. The vendor has agreed to resume supply but not certain for how long since CHC still owes a substantial amount, the bulk from prior to Oct. 1, 2011 under the former Department of Public Health," Babauta said, adding that the money it pays the vendor was sourced from the revolving line of credit from the Marianas Public Land Trust.

The corporation recently received directly from MPLT the $2 million balance of the $3 million line of credit approved for the organization. Portion of the monies were utilized in partial payment of obligations to vendors and personnel including one month housing allowance.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that the corporation paid $150,000 for an estimated four weeks of supplies at the dialysis unit.

Traditional crafts and food-making this weekend

The Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making guyuria and kottot today, April 27, and charakilis and shell necklace, tomorrow, April 28, at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion.

The lessons will start at 9am. Bring your children so they, too, can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinians.

On Saipan, the Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquargters is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on mending talåya, making folded paper sculpture, empanå, buñelus harina, and potu this Saturday, April 28, at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters at 1213 Capitol Hill Rd, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the Board of Parole Office. The activities start at 9:30am and end around noon.

The above activities on Tinian and Saipan are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Community and Cultural Affairs, Office of the Mayor (Tinian), and the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 433-9220 on Tinian and ask for Raymond Sablan. For Saipan, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

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FOR 2012 SPRING SEMESTER

NMC to confer 120 degrees to graduates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College will confer about 120 associate and bachelor degrees during its Spring semester graduation ceremony slated next month.

Based on the preliminary records from the college, most graduating students will come from the associate of arts liberal arts program with 50 potential graduates followed by 18 students graduating with associate in science in nursing.

NMC is also slated to confer diplomas to 15 graduating students from the bachelor of science in elementary education program while seven will complete their associate in applied science criminal justice degrees.

From the associate in arts in business program, seven graduating students will also receive their certificates and diplomas along with nine students under the associate in applied science in business administration with business management emphasis.

Hart

From the associate in applied science in business administration accounting emphasis, five students are expected to be conferred their certificates as well as four in the same associate program with computer applications emphasis.

Diplomas and certificates will also be conferred to four potential graduates from associate in science-natural resource management program; two from the associate in applied science-hospitality management; and one certificate of achievement in hospitality management.

The preliminary figures presented above are considered not final as grades for the current semester are up for submission next month. The number of potential graduates does not also include those from the Adult Basic Education program, which will be announced in a later date.

NMC will mark its graduation ceremony on May 19, 4pm, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. A graduation planning committee has been named by NMC president Sharon Hart to plan all the activities associated with the graduation, including logistics, program, site preparation, and others. Members of the graduation class have also begun meeting to identify and recommend a keynote speaker as well as the theme for the upcoming graduation, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 27, 1999

CPA revises FY 2000 budget

With revenues falling, the Commonwealth Ports Authority must keep a tight watch over its expenditures for the remaining six months of 1999 to meet its financial obligations while maintaining the smooth operations of its facilities. This developed as CPA management prepared a $1.5 million budget for the agency's operations for fiscal year 2000. But board member Roman S. Tudela, chairman of the finance committee, wants the proposed budget revised to reflect the cost-cutting measures implemented by management and the approved increases in airport and seaport fees. Airport operating budget alone is $8.5 million or a 12 percent reduction from the current fiscal year's appropriation. Seaport budget for FY 2000 is $1 million, which is an eight percent decrease from this year's appropriation.

Reyes wants Fund to ease payment

The chair of the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday presses the NMI Retirement Fund to ease conditions on the settlement of some $21 million in unpaid contribution by the government, pointing to the mounting financial obligations of the Tenorio administration. "The most important is the liability of the government on the vendors, people that have provided goods and services," Rep. Karl T. Reyes said in an interview. "If this is just something that the Retirement Fund will collect and reinvest and try to make more money again on top of what they already have, maybe it's not as high priority as the vendors," he added.

Apr. 27, 2000

New law bans use of scuba tank for fishing

Fishing on Rota reefs using scuba tank and other related devices is now prohibited in the island municipality and violators will face jail sentence of up to three months and/or a fine of not more than $500. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed into law a local bill sponsored by Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig and passed by the Rota legislative delegation in what may be the first effort by the Commonwealth to outlaw such fishing practices. He approved the legislation to protect marine resources on the island, but prodded Rota lawmakers to amend it in order to clarify the scope of "other related devices" as well as the "coastal waters of the municipality."

Handicap travelers: a potential market for CNMI

In a move to cash in on growing market of Japanese travelers with disabilities, the Pacific Development Inc. and the Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council asked the Marianas Visitors Authority to make the CNMI accessible to handicap travelers. The potential market worth of Japanese tourists with disabilities is estimated at 450 billion yen. The actual market is only one-fifth of that, or 90 billion yen. Travel spending per person is placed at 25, 210 yen. According to Yoichi Matsumura, PDI general manager, the number of travelers with disabilities has steadily increased due to available resources such as motorized and standard wheelchairs allowing convenient access.

Apr. 27, 2001

CJPA gets fresh federal funds

The Criminal Justice Planing Agency has received a total of $337,595 from the federal government, which it will channel to various programs aimed at alleviating the conditions of violence victims. The biggest portion of the funds released goes to STOP (Services Training Officers Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) with a total of $176,220 appropriated for its operation. STOP VAWA is a program created to foster more widespread apprehension, prosecution and adjudication of violent crimes against women through the criminal justice system.

SGMA inspects apparel factories

Local garment industry officials are currently doing the rounds of factories to check on the latter's compliance with the conditions and standards set forth under a partnership agreement garment companies forged with US Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The voluntary inspections which started Monday are meant to give Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association member factories leeway and assistance under the so-called Excellence 2000 Program, to prepare them for the next scheduled visit of enforcers from the federal labor agency. "We'd like to go through our membership to make sure everything is okay when OSHA representatives visit them either in May or June," SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce said. "This is part of the normal activity we have pertaining to Excellence 2000.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Punishing North Korea's people

North Korea is threatening "retaliatory measures" for a decision by the United States to withhold 240,000 metric tons of food promised as part of an agreement announced less than two months ago. Never mind that the cancellation followed Pyongyang's failed launching of a missile designed to put a satellite into space, an operation the U.S. considered a violation of that same agreement, not to mention U.N. Security Council resolutions. The regime's chutzpah and hypocrisy know no bounds.

At the same time, it's dismaying that the people of North Korea will have to suffer for the duplicity of their unelected leaders. When the so-called Leap Day agreement was announced, we expressed uneasiness about the idea of bartering food for diplomatic concessions. As a general policy, the United States should do its utmost to alleviate starvation and malnutrition without regard to geopolitics. Food aid should not be promised or withheld for political, diplomatic or strategic reasons.

The Obama administration says that's not what it is doing. Indeed, it is not characterizing the suspension of food aid as tit for tat for the bungled April 13 launch, which the U.S. sees as a violation of Pyongyang's promise to refrain from long-range missile launches. Rather, it argues, a regime that can't be trusted to abide by understandings about its military activities likewise can't be relied on to allow efficient distribution of food to the needy. The administration also says that, in light of North Korea's provocative behavior, it is concerned about the well-being of Americans who might be sent to that country to aid in food distribution

Those arguments are not terribly persuasive. Though it's true that shipments of rice and beans to the North have in the past been diverted for the use of the military and their families, the suspension of food aid last week seems more like retribution for the attempted launch than a reaction to concern that the food might not get safely to its intended recipients.

The underlying problem is that food aid was linked to North Korean compliance in the first place. Had it not been, proceeding with the aid after the missile launch wouldn't have looked like a sign of weakness on the part of the U.S. And what of the future? White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said last week that if North Korea abandons its nuclear weapons program and abides by its international obligations, "there is an avenue available ... to allow them to better feed and educate their people." Put another way, that means that hungry children will continue to be held hostage to the machinations of a rogue regime. Finding a way to feed those children remains a moral imperative.

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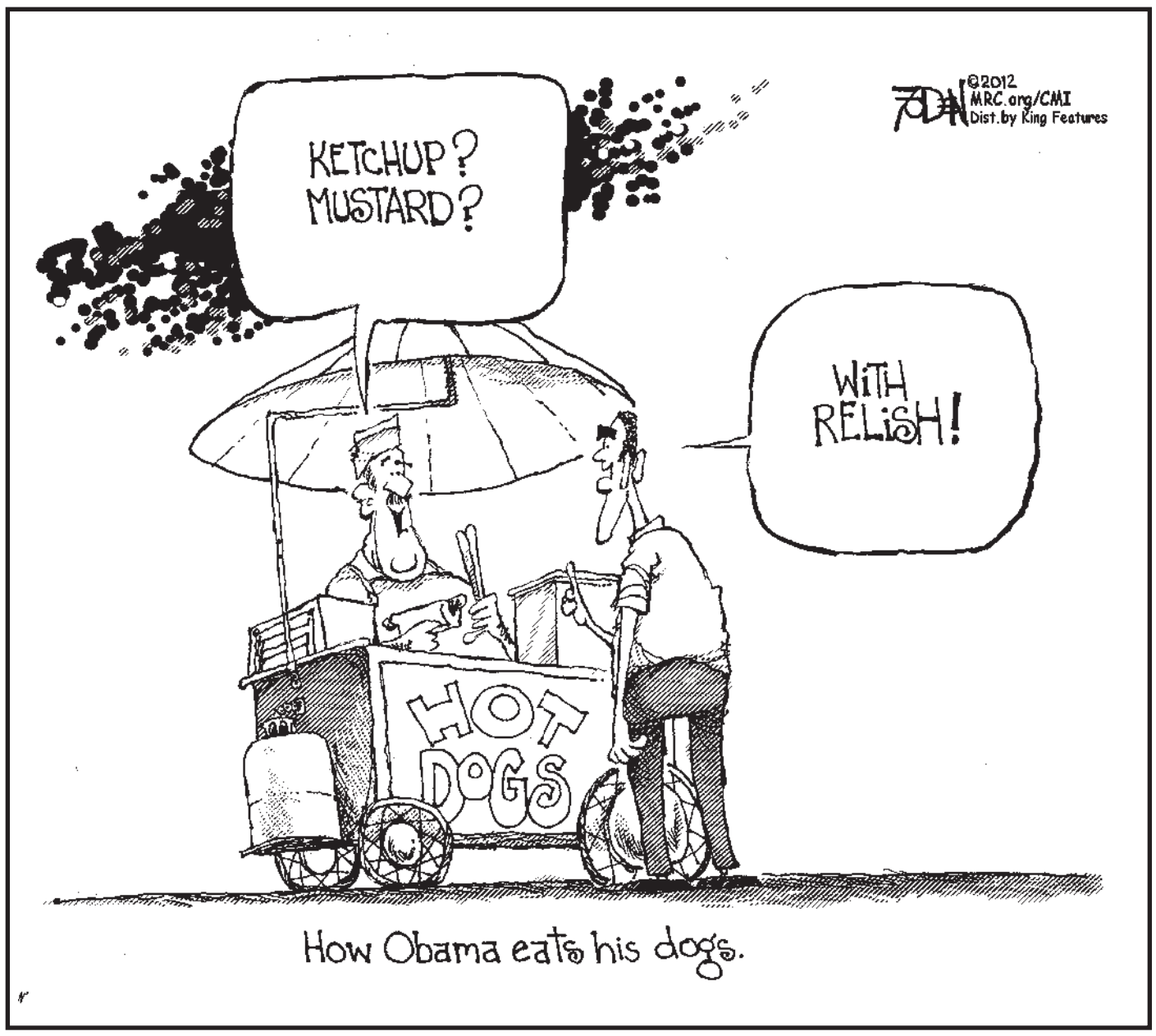


Cambodia's looted treasures

By TESS DAVIS
Los Angeles Times

Tess Davis has worked for Heritage Watch in Cambodia and is now executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Washington. She is consulting with the Cambodian government on the Sotheby's case. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

During the Cambodian civil war from 1970 to 1998, the Khmer Rouge and other paramilitary groups began decimating that country's ancient sites in search of treasures to sell on the international art market. Along with arms dealing and drug smuggling, the looting and trafficking of artifacts became organized industries, which helped finance one of the 20th century's most notorious regimes.

My colleagues and I have documented the painful scars from this plunder—desecrated tombs, beheaded statues and ransacked temples—at archaeological sites throughout Cambodia. We've spoken with looters, middlemen and dealers, and have even posed as collectors. The exact path of pillaged objects is admittedly difficult to trace. But when they do surface, more often than not, it is in the legitimate art world.

On April 4, federal agents filed suit against Sotheby's in New York demanding that the auction house forfeit a 10th century statue of a Hindu warrior that was "illicitly removed" from a Cambodian temple. According to the complaint, the expert Sotheby's hired to appraise the sculpture warned that it was "definitely stolen" and suggested returning it to Cambodia to "save everyone some embarrassment." Sotheby's contends that the piece entered the United States legally and promises to vigorously defend itself.

Across the country, the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena is no doubt following the case closely, as the mate to the disputed Sotheby's figure is on display there. Digital reconstructions and other studies demonstrate that the two sandstone fighters, which represent fabled enemies from the Hindu epic "The Mahabharata," were once locked in combat at Prasat Chen, a temple in the ancient capital of Koh Ker in Cambodia. Now they are on opposite coasts of the United States with only their pedestals—and feet—left behind.

The U.S. and Cambodian governments, as well as scholars who have studied the site, firmly believe the pair were looted as Cambodia fell into civil war, then smuggled onto the European art market before eventually coming to America.

The Norton Simon, like Sotheby's, denies any wrongdoing and notes that no one has formally challenged its ownership since the sculpture was acquired in 1976.

In recent years, a number of American collectors, galleries and museums—including the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Honolulu Academy of Arts—have repatriated disputed objects to Cambodia after discovering that they were looted or stolen. Still, it remains difficult for countries such as Cambodia to recover their pillaged heritage in legal actions because of a high burden of proof, the statute of limitations and other bars to claims.

It's easier to make a moral claim for repatriation. Most Cambodian "artworks" are sacred objects that were never meant to be bought or sold on the international market.

Without doubt, the art market has improved its practices regarding looted objects in the last decade, but it has not done enough for Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge may no longer be a threat—to temples or people—but the pillage of the nation's archaeological sites continues, driven by an increasing demand for antiquities. With each artifact plundered, untold knowledge of the past is lost and a piece of the world's heritage destroyed.

Most of us will never purchase an illicit antiquity from Cambodia or elsewhere, but we are complicit in these crimes. Our inaction allows them to continue. When we see an artifact for sale or on display, we must ask where it came from, and how. The answers should not be hard to provide, as valuable objects usually have a paper trail, from import declarations to insurance forms. But if there is no such provenance—or if it points to the artwork being a victim of war, civil unrest or criminal looting—such a piece should not be on the market or in a museum.

When archaeological sites are looted, the history of many is lost for the pleasure of a few. Buying, selling, displaying and even viewing such antiquities means condoning the destruction of art we love, and perhaps even encouraging it. At best, we may be funding criminals; at worst radicals, like the Khmer Rouge (al-Qaida and the Taliban have also been linked to the illicit art trade).

Is that a legacy that Sotheby's, the Norton Simon Museum or anyone would want?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tablets as e-readers

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

I've had a few months to wring out a couple of tablet computers. I can finally take a stab at the question of whether or not they're useful for reading e-books. Will a tablet replace the paperback book in those iconic images of paradise, where someone ensconced in a hammock, drink in one hand, novel in the other, is enjoying a lazy day at the beach? And instead of walking uphill both ways to attend school, will students someday just tote tablets instead of textbooks? More to the point: Should you buy a tablet to use as a book reader?

My answer: I don't know. I've found tablets to be a great solution to some problems, but as for replacing books, I think it's such a personal and subjective gig that there's no generic answer.

I know a lady of meager means who just spent $1,400 to give her grandkids a couple of tablets. The kids told her they'd fail out of school otherwise. Whether the lady was being bamboozled, or whether she was being a true savior, isn't up to me to say. But I'll heed the bigger point: Tablets as "e-readers" are an important enough trend that people who aren't otherwise into technology are going to be thinking about opening their wallets.

Just to cover a contextual base, I'll note that "PDF," Portable Document Format, is the famously ubiquitous format blazed by the Adobe company. Many books, documents, and forms are put into this format, and it's pretty much the legacy format for a lot of important stuff. Many books that predate computers have been put in PDF to archive them digitally. Anyway, being able to conveniently read a PDF file is a big deal.

On the other hand, many newly produced e-books are in other formats, which have advantages when used on dedicated e-book readers (as opposed to tablet computers). The text on dedicated e-book readers, which use "electronic ink," is far easier to read than text on computer (including tablet) screens, especially in the bright sunlight, which is no small matter in the tropics. The technology also offers far longer batter life than tablets offer. But the rub here is that dedicated e-book readers can't do all the stuff that tablet computers can do. So for all the glitz of modern technology, we're caught in an age old conundrum: a specialized tool that does a very specific job (black text) really well vs. a generalized tool that is master of no single task but that is adequate at many.

I think the general tool is pulling ahead, since I see far more tablets around me, especially iPads, than I see dedicated e-book readers.

So, here's how I react to reading on a tablet, though you might react the opposite way: For studying technical information, I strongly prefer a traditional book to a tablet. I've asked one math professor and one airplane captain their preferences, and their preferences match mine on this note, but they both use tablets as e-readers in some cases anyway, as do I.

The professor pointed out that she does use an iPad to read some math books, since in some cases the physical books would be far more expensive than their PDF counterparts. She said she's pointing her students in the iPad direction more and more these days.

For his part, the pilot pointed out that he pretty much goes belt-and-suspenders on the gig, preferring physical books for home and office use, but using a tablet for road duty.

So in these two cases we see tablets being supplements to physical books, as opposed to being complete replacements for them.

For light reading, where I'm just digesting simple, uncomplicated text, I found that I still prefer a physical book to a screen. But I use my tablet anyway sometimes. Incidentally, for some reason my tablet's battery life seems to get sapped by about 40 percent when reading PDF books, but that's an unscientific observation and I have taken zero effort to refine it, solve it, or understand it.

If I had to sit in an airliner and entertain myself for an entire trans-Pacific flight without recourse to physical books, then despite my enthusiasm for tablets, I'd punt the tablet realm entirely and just go the dedicated e-reader route.

The bottom line? The bottom line is that there is no bottom line. It's too squishy of a realm to strike a fixed answer. Sure, books are inanimate lumps of matter, but for many of us they are such important parts of our lives that they take on lives of their own. How we relate to, and live with, these books is up to us, not up to any "experts."

But look on the bright side: It's all going to change in a few years anyway, at which point we'll look back on these days and laugh at how seriously we took these decisions.

Navigating 32 years of negligence

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Unthinkable how the long simmering-problem of the Retirement Fund has been ignored for 32 long years or since its founding in 1980. Not only was its design shortsighted, it was fraught with political dangers and has resulted in deficit spending and mounting debts today.

Coupled with the huge plunge in local revenues (by a whopping $154 million) leadership should have been agile by summoning a timely summit to sift through fact and fiction of the impact of an impending economic disaster. It boggles the mind that even with this critically vital information, leadership did nothing but sing "ke sera, sera." Why the perennial acquiescence and dismissive attitude when the consequence of devastation is headed our way like deadly magma?

Is it a case of more young retirees collecting pension pay while contributions from active members are insufficient to meet bi-monthly pension requirements? In other words, is there more pay out than collection to mitigate the system going belly up? Or do we even know this after 32 years of *mañana*? Wherein lies the crux of the problem? Is there a need to increase the retirement age to 62 with 75 as the mandatory cutoff point?

More to the point:Since 1980 or some 32 years ago the elected and appointed officials have treated the financial inadequacy of the fund like a filthy leper. Everyone would look and poke it with a 10-foot pole, ignore it hoping it could magically heal itself without appropriating seed funding for obligations. From the outset, money for its payout has come from the central government. It now pays out some $60-90 million annually. It's unsustainable no matter how you twist it.

A close scrutiny would mean that a good portion of the money paid to retirees comes from private industries and their employees. Is this fair? Why should they be paying for a program they are not a part of? How long must we force them to pay for the bi-monthly requirements of the program? Why is the government using private industries' and their employees' contributions for purposes of the Fund?

Revenues head south

Had the NMI undertaken critical review to ensure the Fund's solvency, it stands to reason that we wouldn't be scrambling for cover today. Given the need for major reform coupled with 32 years of negligence, it has been destined for bankruptcy from the outset.

It is now at Death Cliff. Indeed, some share the view that the dysfunctional administration coughs up the requisite funds, but against the receding tide of revenue streams going Deep South even this would be woefully prohibitive. This happens when we stop using math on fiscally responsible paradigms. Now there's revulsion from retirees.

In brief, Fund payment obligations piles up by leaps and bounds while revenue generation decreases significantly making any further cushioning fiscally impossible. Herein lies the mess!

Interesting too how those who are guilty of averting the resolution of the fund's fate have seen fit to engage in the blame game or what has escalated into a raucous mudslinging match. Well, if none of the mudslingers did anything concrete to the resolve the issue then, why are you all being accusatory with heavy decibels? Yelling the loudest isn't going to change the fact that you all have failed the retirees!

Realistically, even amongst wealthy countries, pension programs have gone bankrupt and the idea of ascertaining solvency is stuck in the filthy swamp frequented by dangerous people known as "politicians". They often visit the venue for suntan. Look no further than the US Social Security System and be guided accordingly. Is there really lasting solutions in sight for the impending disaster?

No longer 'everything's government'

Part of the culprit then and now is the mindset that "everything is government." I recalled arguing with a fully trained private sector employee who sought for years to move into a government job. I was successful in placing him somewhere.

The first thing that bothered him was the attitude of fellow co-workers who literally sit all day long yawning, smoking, and chewing betel nut, sipping coffee while struggling to look intelligent. I mean it's the garden-variety group of drone workers who raise their collar and sport the teeny almighty privilege that working for the government is the one mighty sword. In brief, hardly any of them ever earned their dues. And they boast of their salaries that are higher than their counterparts in private industries. Humiliating, isn't it?

My friend finally assimilated into the drone workers' troops and now shirks his responsibilities every inch of the way. If the goal of government employment is deterioration of acquired skills, then we have succeeded grandly on this score. How pathetic the poor quality of workers in government each of whom becomes governor when he or she wants to.

Ever tried seeking assistance from royal misfits in the various agencies? I will not forget one whose specialty is absenteeism yet she takes home her fully paid loot. She doesn't work on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. She reports on Wednesdays and looks forward to austerity Fridays. The government has a garden-variety of this drone group of employees. And they have the gall to receive our hard-earned backbreaking tax dollars? A`Saina!

■■■

Splurging with scarce resources

The NMI now looks to Uncle Sam's Social Security system to move non-contributing member of the Fund. It's a system that reportedly on its way to bankruptcy 2033. So it's a move from one bankruptcy to the next.

We toyed around with scarce resources of the Fund. In the first place, is the Fund a financial or banking institution? Is the Fund a housing agency? Why the splurge amidst uncertainty then and now whether it could muddle through financially? Why must others suffer the unintended consequence of this bankruptcy due largely to ill-conceived and lamed decisions by politicians who played Santa Claus for 32 long years?

Interesting though how the Fund became the focal attraction of locals who see it as their perky savior upon retirement. So there's the powerful move to matriculate into the public sector at all cost. It was an avenue to bloat the payroll that was achieved in sterling fashion too. Now the system is broke! Do they still see public sector jobs an attractive lot for their golden years? Or hasn't this been instantly flushed out of the gates of "No Mas?"

Add the lingering "cargo cult" mindset--historic belief that money rains from the skies—and you'd painfully discover why the detrimental reliance on "everything is government" is no longer the case. In the meantime, private industries have contracted significantly translating revenue generation into mind numbing degeneration. It means far less for far more.

The huge plunge in revenues would prompt and accelerate significant cuts in public services from public safety, public education, and public health, among others. With drained scarce resources, we still mouth off opportunities for reinvestment. This phenomenon would take at least two decades to lure into paradise. What hopelessness!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East to northeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

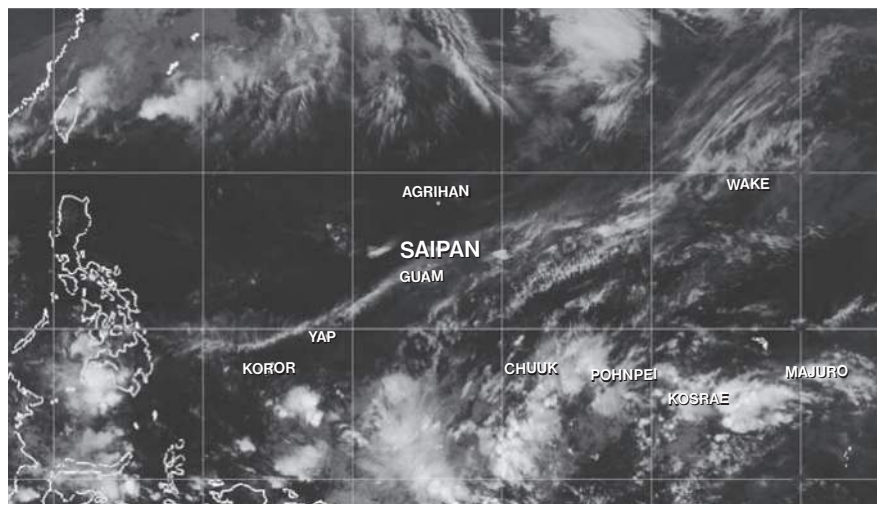
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼47
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78	▼75
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲66	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼83
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼49
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼73
New York	Sunny	▲57	▼41
Osaka	Sunny	▲75	▼52
Paris	Showers	▲65	▼51
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼56
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲70	▼49
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲65	▼48

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward into the discussion area at 23N180 to 20N175E then continues as a shear line to southeast of Wake Island at 15N170E and finally turns westward to end east of the Marianas at 15N150E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary east of 160E west of 160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 240 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough reaches northward from 17N145E to beyond 25N at 148E. Scattered showers are present east of the trough axis over Minami Tori Shima or north of a line from 20N148E to 24N160E. Another surface trough runs northward from EQ148E to just south of Guam at 12N145E. Low-level convergence associated with the trough is coupling with divergent upper winds to trigger scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Guam and west of Chuuk or south of a line from 1N139E to 12N146E to 12N151E. Isolated thunderstorms are flaring up just northwest of Guam within 50 miles of 14N143E. Two trade-wind disturbances are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Chuuk and Pohnpei within 160 miles of a line from EQ157E to 9N155E and also over Kosrae between the equator and 7N from 159E to 170E. Converging trade winds are producing scattered showers over Majuro coastal waters and Tarawa atoll south of a line from 7N170E to 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:13 AM	11:22 PM
Saturday	11:05 AM	
Sunday	11:57 AM	12:07 AM
Monday	12:50 PM	12:51 AM
Tuesday	1:45 PM	1:34 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

MHS' Ngirbabul named Gates Millennium Scholar

An 18-year-old Marianas High School senior is among two recipients from the Commonwealth of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Michelle Ngirbabul is now entitled to attend any U.S. located, accredited college or university of her choice.

Ngirbabul

This is a renewable scholarship based on the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program guidelines. In addition, if she pursues graduate studies in the fields of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science, she may also be eligible for GMS fellowship funding for her education through the master's and doctoral levels.

According to Joo Young Lee, director of GMS Program in Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Ngirbabul's accomplishments were notable and which were used in determining her selection to the program.

"We are very pleased to inform you of your selection as one of the 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars for the GMS Class of 2012. We commend you on your strong leadership, community service and academic achievements that contributed to your selection as a Gates Millennium Scholar. Your accomplishment is especially notable in context of the more than 24,000 students who applied, making this year's the largest and most competitive group of candidates in the program's history. We are very excited for you to join the community of Gates Scholars and we are very pleased to confer this distinct honor that distinguishes you as a Leader for America's Future," said Lee in her letter to the scholar.

Ngirbabul told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that her selection came as a big surprise and was overwhelmed by the good news. The student will pursue college at Mount Vernon Iowa Cornell College and will major in international relations with minor in French and ethnic studies.

She extended her appreciation to her grandmother Rosario Elameto, and uncles Gordon and Michael Ngirbabul. The scholar also thanked her teachers and fellow students at MHS for all their support and guidance.

Ngirbabul told *Saipan Tribune* that she hopes that she will serve as an inspiration to her peers and pointed out that with firm determination to succeed, hardship will never be a hindrance to those who strive for the best in their education and future. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Article XII on *Marianas Agupa*

Tomorrow, April 28, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature former senator Maria Frica Pangelinan and chairman Efrain Camacho from Citizens for Changing Article 12 to talk about the Article 12 signature drive between 10am to 10:30am.

The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show. Direct to studio at 234-5929 or use marianas agupa facebook account via instant messaging.

The Chamorro Radio Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona . Featured reports are as follows: World report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos and a report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called Hafa Mohon with Juanita Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator with former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous internet via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

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STEAK AND LOBSTER (ISE-EBI)
(Grilled 6-8 oz. Sirloin Filet wrapped in Bacon & Grilled Lobster Tail)

SHRIMP AND LOBSTER (ISE-EBI)
(Grilled Shrimp wrapped in Bacon & Grilled Lobster Tail)

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Saipan Mayor's Office moving to new location

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office will be closed to the public today and Monday as it moves to its new location along Beach Road.

Mayor Donald G. Flores yesterday noted, however, that his office will still be taking in phone calls and work on field requests from the community since their "operations" staff will be working on said dates.

Flores

Flores said that by Tuesday, May, their office can be found at the second floor of Ladera Center "right outside the elevator."

He explained that their lease contract for their office at Afetnas Square Complex in San Antonio will expire on Monday, April 30.

"That's why we have to be in the new building by Tuesday," added Flores.

The mayor described their new office as brand new, spacious, and located in a central location for accessibility to residents from different parts of the island.

"It will conveniently serve clients young and old because the building has a working elevator and it's ADA compliant," he said.

Flores also noted that the rent they will pay on the new office is "significantly lower," allowing them to use savings from rental expense "to other necessities needed within the office."

He pointed out that only the office location will change. Their office numbers will remain the same.

"We look forward to continue serving the people of Saipan in our new location," Flores added.

USCIS hosts additional immigration info sessions

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Director David Gulick will host eight information sessions for the public to provide updates and clarifications about immigration benefits.

Six of the 1 1/2 hour sessions will be held at the Multipurpose Center in Susupe and the remaining two at the National Park Service's American Memorial Park indoor auditorium in Garapan.

Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The sessions will feature a review of the processing of CW petitions and other updates and clarifications, followed by a Question & Answer period covering the I-129CW Application for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker and other issues.

Individual case inquiries cannot be addressed in this forum, but should be sent to USCIS at CNMI.CSC@uscis.dhs.gov. Gulick will not provide legal advice of any kind.

USCIS is the agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration benefits. More information can be found at www.uscis.gov/cw or by calling (800) 375- 5283.

WHAT: USCIS Immigration Information Sessions

WHEN & WHERE:

■ Monday, April 30, 2012

9am to 10:30am, Multipurpose Center, Susupe

2pm to 3:30pm, Multipurpose Center, Susupe

6pm to 7:30pm, American Memorial Park (indoor auditorium)

■ Tuesday, May 1, 2012

9am to 10:30am, Multipurpose Center, Susupe

2pm to 3:30pm, Multipurpose Center, Susupe

6pm to 7:30pm, American Memorial Park (indoor auditorium) ***(PR)***

2012 models have arrived!
KIA MOTORS
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Designed for the next level.
The dynamic new Sportage is defined by its bold sporty design. Advanced technology abounds from its power plant and suspension system to its collision countermeasures. Its spacious ergonomically designed interior completes the package.
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* Kia Sportage total price $21,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $348.40 or $160.80 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $20,904.00. Kia Forte total price $17,195.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $272.37 or $125.71 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $16,342.20. Documentation fees and registration not included.

Saipan Singing Superstar 2 starts on May 4

The Saipan Grand Hotel is once again offering a fun-filled and exciting event for the public to enjoy. The hotel is reviving the Saipan Singing Superstar 2! The event will commence on May 4, 2012 and will run for the whole month of May.

Registered contestants are advised to attend the general assembly this coming Saturday, April 28, 10am at the Saipan Grand Hotel lobby.

Please bring your USB or CDs of your song of choice. We shall also announce your slot for the contest during the assembly.

For inquiries, call 234-6601 ext. 701 or 888-6508. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Mark Alvaro, who will be celebrating his 7th birthday today, April 28. Greetings from your Mom and Dad.

GMS student wins gold at regional NJFL

A 6th grade student from Green Meadow School will join other winning participants in the recently concluded Regional National Junior Forensic League in representing the CNMI at the NJFL competition later this year in Indianapolis, Indiana.

GMS fielded only four of its 6th grade class to the competition, with outstanding results. All four advanced to the semi-final rounds held on April 13 at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School. Two of the four contestants emerged as finalists in the elimination rounds. In the final round, which took place on April 14 at Tanapag Elementary School, one of the two students who reached the final round was hailed a gold winner. Chekaina Viel Coloma go on to participate in the NJFL competition in Indianapolis in June 2012.

Congratulations to Chekaina Viel Coloma, Monica Aira Usi, Ezikiel Alfred, and Mary Grace Briones for another outstanding accomplishment. Thanks and congratulations also to team coach Bona Angeles and NJFL coordinator Ellen Alejo.

- Gold ribbon, Poetry Reading: Chekaina Viel Coloma
- Silver ribbons – Duo (semi-finalits): Monica Aira Usi and Ezekiel Kristen Alfred
- Silver ribbons – Duo (semifinalits): Mary Grace Briones and Chekaina Viel Coloma
- Finalists – Poetry Reading: Mary Grace Briones and Chekaina Viel Coloma

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, coach Ellen Alejo, Mary Grace Briones, Chekaina Viel Coloma, Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla, Monica Aira Usi, Ezekiel Alfred, and coach Bona Angeles.

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CNMI February 2012 visitor arrivals up 8%

February 2012 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 8 percent compared to February 2011.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 36,332 visitors in February compared to 33,659 in February 2011.

Overall, visitor arrivals are up 6 percent this fiscal year to 161,981 visitors.

Arrivals from Japan dropped 12 percent to 15,335 in February, as the NMI received two daily flights from Narita for most of the month, compared to three daily flights in February 2011.

However, due to high demand during the peak travel season, Delta Air Lines operated a third weekly flight, and Asiana Airlines re-launched daily service from Osaka in December.

Arrivals from Korea were up 24 percent to 12,537 visitors. Delta Air Lines operated Busan-Saipan charter flights from Jan. 5 to Feb. 26, 2012 on Thursdays and Sundays, while Asiana Airlines has continued to operate its Busan-Saipan charter flights launched in November.

Arrivals from China increased 58 percent in February to 6,208 visitors. The number of air seats more than doubled in February 2012 compared to February 2011 due to last year, when the NMI only had two flights per week from Shanghai plus three charters from Beijing.

So far this fiscal year, the Northern Marianas has received over 80 percent more visitors from China as the same period last year. Increased arrivals from Korea and China helped offset decreased arrivals from Japan during the month.

Arrivals from Russia were down slightly at 2 percent to 367 visitors, while Guam also registered a 1-percent dip to 978 visitors.

However, arrivals were up in February from the United States (10 percent to 594), the Philippines (9 percent to 49), Hong Kong (33 percent to 52), and Other Areas (26 percent to 213). ***(MVA)***

MEET THE MMAC TEAMS

Team Bodig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Bodig

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MMAC Committee's note: *As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Marianas March Against Cancer, the 2012 committee would like to honor and recognize the efforts of our teams for their untiring support in the fight against cancer.*

While Team Bodig has been actively participating in the annual Marianas March Against Cancer since its inception in 2003, it was actually created in 1999 back when the event was still under the American Cancer Society.

Led by team captain Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero and co-captain Bridgette M. Camacho, Team Bodig was named after and inspired by the matriarch of the family who was diagnosed with cancer in 1994 and succumbed to her battle in 2004.

"It was our mother's persistence and determination that we all got together as a family to join this great cause," said the team, referring to Gramma Bodig whom they described as "a very strong woman in every sense of the word."

The team maintained that Gramma Bodig "knew the importance that family played in a cancer patient's life," thus reaching out to their extended families for support, and also for Bodig's daughter who fortunately survived cancer.

"Just by reaching out, our team has grown and keeps on growing," said Team Bodig as they acknowledged the "overwhelming support" of families and friends, who gave them the motivation, courage, and strength to join the fight against the deadly disease.

According to the team, their favorite segments of MMAC are the "solemn" luminary ceremony and the survivors' walk.

For this year, Team Bodig plans to sell food and drinks at their tent. They also held several fundraising activities, including "Thirsty Thursday" held at Naked Fish Bar & Grill last April 12 and a coin drive by the Microl Toyota intersection on April 20.

Although Team Bodig noted that forming a team "is no easy task" as it requires "commitment, dedication, support and most of all, cooperation and understanding," they also emphasized that having more teams take part in MMAC will aid in raising more funds for a "great and worthy cause."

"We should come together as one community this time of year, to remember our loved ones who lost their battle as we light a candle in their memory. We should also come to honor our survivors and to instill in their hearts that there is always hope, and that we must continue to have faith," they added.

Team Alai/SCS

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time, Advanced Language & Academic Institute and the Saipan Community School join forces to form a team to debut at the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer happening tonight at 6pm at the Hopwood Jr. High School field.

Comprised of students, teachers, other staff, and parents of both schools, Team ALAI/SCS is headed by captains Nina Rivera, Travis Hurst, and C.J. Libut.

Both schools were inspired to form a team by Clarie Kosack, a yoga instructor and breast cancer survivor. The team admires Kosack, whom they described as a strong and discerning woman for what she has gone through. "Her journey is truly a phenomenal one."

Fundraising efforts of Team ALAI/SCS will include selling snacks and drinks at their tent. They also plan to pass out fliers and pamphlets to those who will be attending tonight's event.

Team ALAI/SCS noted that the annual MMAC event makes the community "understand that no one is alone" in the fight against cancer.

"Forming a team has been a great way to get everyone excited about helping others. It gave a wonderful opportunity to opening the eyes of students about a very real and very sad disease," they added.

APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Promo Extended

Until April 30, 2012 (for 1 year contract)

Promo price in only offered for cash payments.
Payments made by credit card will be charged the regular price.

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

1-BEDROOM : REG PRICE - ~~$650.00~~ NOW $500.00 ~
2-BEDROOM : REG PRICE - ~~$800.00~~ NOW $650.00 ~
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-duty security guard at night
- On-site maintenance
- Parking space
- Swimming pool

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

STUDIO-TYPE : REG PRICE - ~~$380.00~~ NOW $250.00 ~
2-BEDROOM : REG PRICE - ~~$550.00~~ NOW $400.00 ~
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)
LOCATION: SAN JOSE, right next to Roshi's Store (along Beach Rd)
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Broad parking space (front area and backside)
- Spacious yard
- Swimming pool w/ BBQ area

ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN

AVAILABLE UNITS:
2-Bedroom and 3-Bedroom
PRICE depends upon the type of unit
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)
LOCATION: PUERTO RICO, close to Bank of Hawaii
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr drinkable (Reverse Osmosis) water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit
- Free moving-service
- Parking space
- Swimming pool
- Tennis court
- Washer and Dryer in the unit

YOUNGS BUILDING

COMMERCIAL SPACE:
REG PRICE - ~~$800.00~~ NOW $500.00 ~
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)
LOCATION: GARAPAN Middle Road, where Pacific Quick Print is situated
AREA: 760 sq ft per unit (2nd FLOOR ONLY)
AMENITIES:
- Parking space
- Common waste container

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

1-BEDROOM : REG PRICE - ~~$500.00~~ NOW $400.00 ~
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, nearby 747 Dining & Bar
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Back-up generator
- Common waste container
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Free moving-service
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Parking space

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

YOUNGS BUILDING

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For further details: You can visit ATOM's CO., LTD. office, located in Garapan, Saipan.
Our office hour is 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekends.
You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

CNMI Judiciary preps for Law Week 2012

The CNMI Judiciary is preparing for Law Day 2012 and the surrounding events of the week with specific activities to be held at the Guma' Hustisia—Limwal Aweewe—House of Justice in Susupe.

Judiciary legal staff, including justices and judges, have been involved in a broad range of Law Day activities to benefit the youth of the CNMI. These outreach efforts include the 2nd Annual Law Day Poster and Essay Contest, preparations for the "We the People" national competition in Washington, D.C., and the 28th Annual Attorney Generals' Cup to be held in the CNMI Supreme Court Courtroom on May 3, plus classroom visits to local school by justices, judges and members of the CNMI Bar Association.

The week's events began yesterday, April 26, when the Commonwealth Courts, the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and the NMI Bar Association signed the Law Week Proclamation.

The national theme for Law Day is "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom." Acting Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro said about this year's theme: "We will reflect upon and celebrate the role that an independent judiciary serves in ensuring justice and protecting our fundamental freedoms. The belief that laws—not men—should control our individual and collective destinies is at the core of America's way of life."

The new attorney admissions ceremony immediately followed the proclamation signing in the Supreme Court Courtroom.

For the second year, winners of the Law Day poster and essay contests will be recognized and awards and prizes will be given for the most outstanding essays and posters at a Law Day awards ceremony at the Supreme Court at 11am on May 1. This year numerous essays and posters on this year's Law Day theme, written and produced by fifth and sixth graders students from private and public schools, have been received at the CNMI Judiciary. Many will be on exhibit at the courthouse.

Earlier this Spring, Saipan Southern High School students were the winners of the local "We the People" competition for the second year. Supreme Court Justice John Manglona and judiciary law clerks Charlotte Sanders and Deanna Manglona contributed their time and efforts as coaches during the local competition and have been assisting the Commonwealth's team to prepare for the national "We the People" competition, which will be held this week in Washington, D.C. The Federal District Court also assisted with preparations by holding a dress rehearsal for the students last week.

The "We the People" competition is only in its third year in the CNMI. The program, sponsored by the Public School System, gives students comprehensive instruction on the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. "We the People" is intended to strengthen participants' analytical skills and presentation abilities. Jerald Russell, a former civics teacher at Saipan Southern High School, was instrumental in creating interest among the students for the "We the People" program and in preparing the students for competition. PSS administrators, including Andrew Golden and Steven Smith, have also been instrumental in coordinating participation in the national competition.

On May 3, beginning at 8am the 28th Annual Attorney Generals' Cup Speech Competition will be held in the CNMI Supreme Court Courtroom in Susupe, Saipan. Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham will be the official host for the competitive forum in which students give speeches on law and government in the CNMI. This year's participants from local public and private high schools are asked to consider and speak to apportionment alternative for the CNMI Senate. The public is invited to attend.

Throughout the course of Law Week and into the month of May justices, judges and members of the CNMI Bar Association will visit schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. They will speak on the theme of courts, justice and freedom, and answer questions from the students.

The CNMI Judiciary maintains a year-round resolve to broaden the understanding of the judicial process and the rule of law among students of all ages. Speaking engagements and guided tour requests of the Guma Hustisia from teachers and principals of public and private schools are welcomed. Arrangements can be made by calling 236-9716. ***(PR)***

Do Re Mi School of Music violin recital this weekend

The Do Re Mi School of Music will hold its 21st Annual Violin Recital on April 28 and 29, from 7pm to 9 pm on both nights at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The entrance fee will be $10 for adults and $5 for students/children 5 years old and up. All students (not in college) tickets will be at $5 in contradiction to the poster. Tickets can be obtained by calling the school at 233-7777 or at the door.

The recital also serves as a fundraiser to assist the school in sending its students to competitions outside the CNMI.

If you would like to sponsor these activities by purchasing an ad in their recital program or making a donation, please contact the school. ***(PR)***

Military to conduct training on FDM, WA 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- April 30-May 1 from 9am to 6am
- May 2-3 from 8am to 5am
- May 4 from 9am to 7pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on May 2-3 from 8am to 5pm.

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes – January 19, 2012
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance
   2. Personnel
4) **Old Business**
5) **New Business**
   1. Email Poll Ratification
      a. FY 2013 Budget Request
      b. Tourism Master Plan
      c. Reprogramming and Printing of Customs Forms
   2. Off-shore Representative Office
   3. Tourism Master Plan – what's next?
   4. General Membership Meeting
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
   1. Tourism Month
   2. Taste of the Marianas
   3. Upcoming events
7) **Executive Session**
8) **Adjournment**

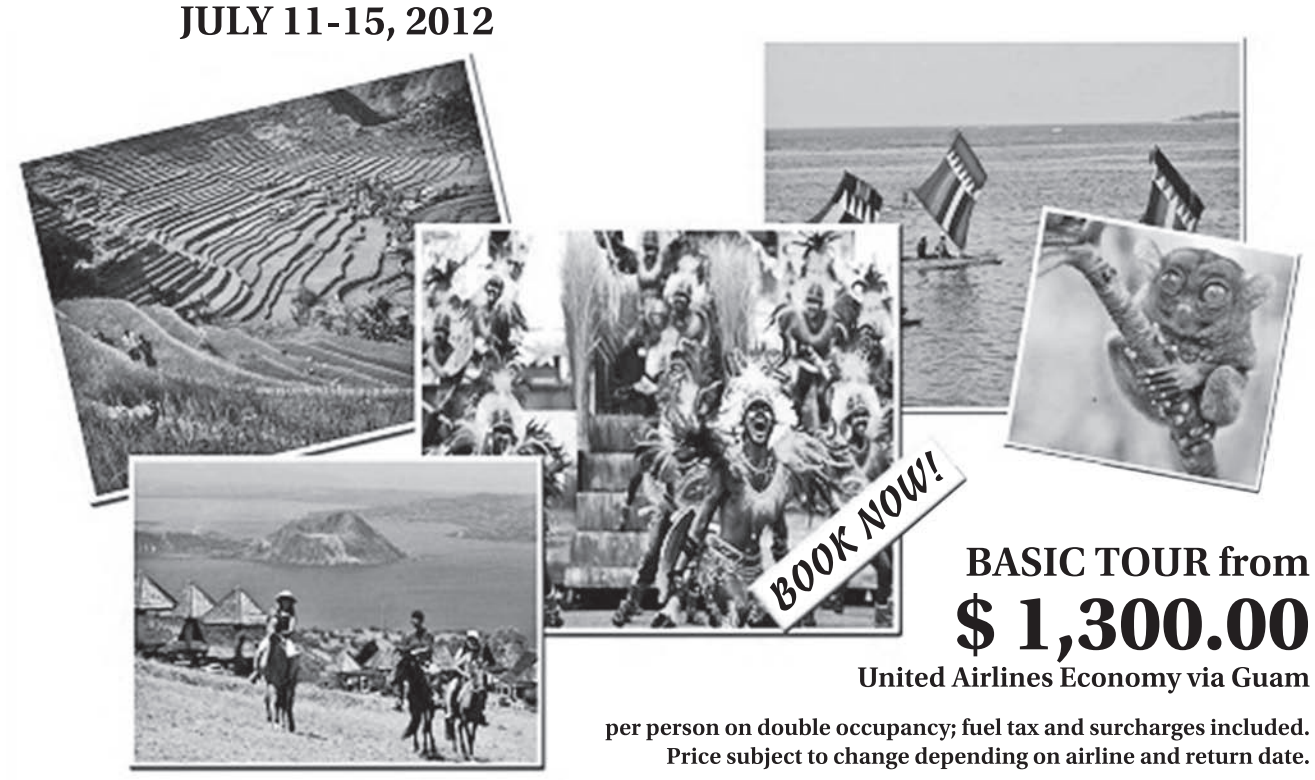
/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

The Philippine Consulate General in Saipan invites you to join this **one-of-a kind tour of the Philippines led by the Ambassadors to the United Sates of America and Canada**, the **Consuls General and Tourism Directors** to the different Posts in the US and Canada

7th AMBASSADORS, CONSULS GENERAL and TOURISM DIRECTORS TOUR of the PHILIPPINES

It's more fun in the Philippines

JULY 11-15, 2012



BASIC TOUR from
$ 1,300.00
United Airlines Economy via Guam

per person on double occupancy; fuel tax and surcharges included.
Price subject to change depending on airline and return date.

BASIC TOUR

- International round trip ticket (Saipan to Manila)
- 4 (four) nights at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City with daily buffet breakfast
- Dinners with cultural show and entertainment
- Historic wreath-laying ceremony at Rizal Park
- Visit to Malacanang with lunch
- Meeting and photo opportunity with PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
- Choice of Special Tours and Immersion Programs
- Day trip and Barrio Fiesta at Las Casas de Acuzar in Bataan
- and many, many more FUN activities and events!

Exciting optional POST TOURS available after the BASIC TOUR.

For more details, please contact:
Philippine Consulate General, 5/F Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, MP 96950, CNMI
Tel: 234-1848 • Fax: 234-1849 • Email: saipanpcg@pticom.com
or Mr. Cesar Lopez or Ms. Liza Camacho, Century Travel • Tel: 235-3708 • Fax: 235-3711

Business

SKorea retailers halt US beef sales over mad cow

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Two major South Korean retailers pulled U.S. beef from their stores Wednesday following the discovery of mad cow disease in a U.S. dairy cow, although one reversed the decision. Reaction elsewhere in Asia was muted with Japan saying there's no reason to restrict imports.

South Korea's No. 2 and No. 3 supermarket chains, Home Plus and Lotte Mart, said they halted sales of U.S. beef to calm worries among South Koreans. But within hours, Home Plus had resumed sales and cited a government announcement of increased inspections. Lotte kept its suspension in place.

"We stopped sales from today," said Chung Won-hun, a Lotte Mart spokesman. "Not that there were any quality issues in the meat but because consumers were worried."

South Korea is the world's fourth-largest importer of U.S. beef, buying 107,000 tons of the meat worth $563 million in 2011.

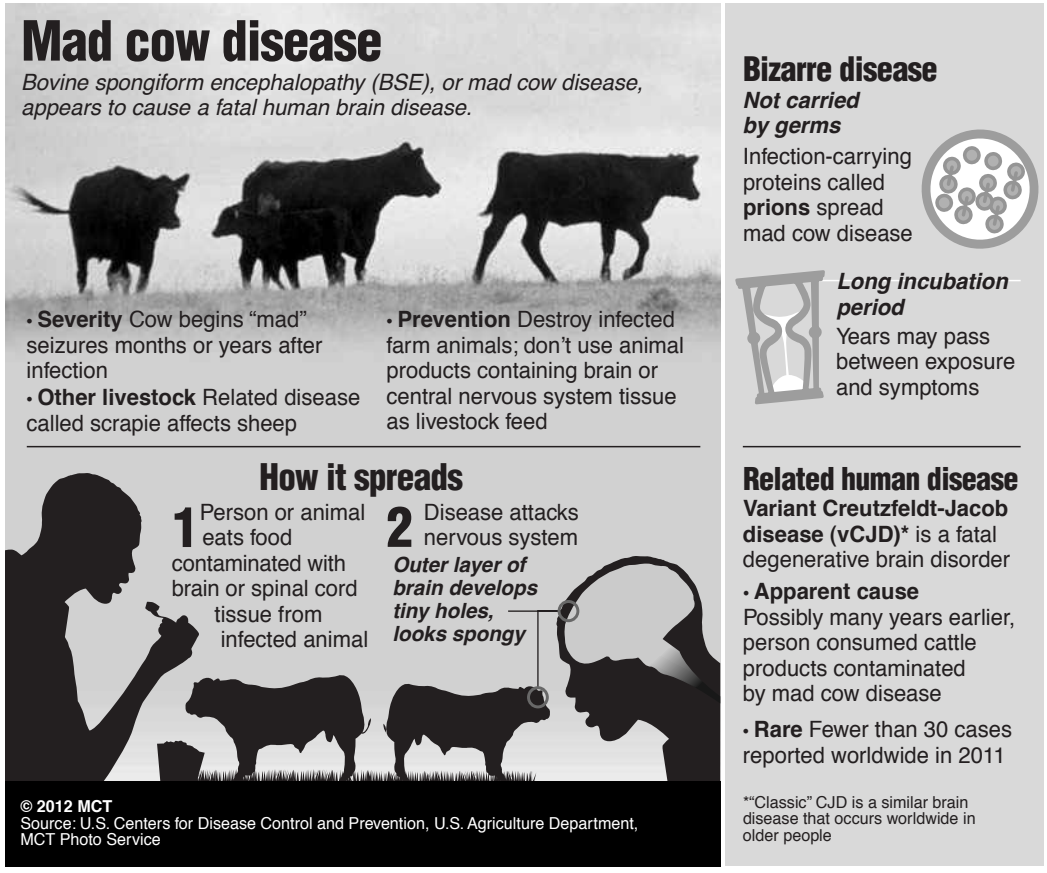
The new case of mad cow disease is the first in the U.S. since 2006. It was discovered in a dairy cow in California, but health authorities said Tuesday the animal was never a threat to the nation's food supply.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is fatal to cows and can cause a deadly human brain disease in people who eat tainted beef. U.S. authorities said the dead California cow had what scientists call an atypical case of BSE, meaning that a random mutation in the animal rather than infected cattle feed was the cause.

The infected cow, the fourth ever discovered in the U.S., was found as part of an Agriculture Department surveillance program that tests about 40,000 cows a year for the disease.

The news spread quickly in South Korea, which imposed a ban on U.S. beef in 2003 along with China and other countries because of mad cow disease concerns. Seoul's resumption of U.S. beef imports in 2008 sparked daily candlelight vigils and street protests for several months as many South Koreans still regarded the meat as a public health risk.

South Korea imports U.S. beef from cows less than 30 months old and there is no direct link between U.S. beef imported into South Korea and the infected animal, the country's agriculture ministry said in a statement. The infected U.S. cow was older than 30 months.


Mad cow disease
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, appears to cause a fatal human brain disease.
• Severity Cow begins "mad" seizures months or years after infection
• Other livestock Related disease called scrapie affects sheep
• Prevention Destroy infected farm animals; don't use animal products containing brain or central nervous system tissue as livestock feed
How it spreads
1 Person or animal eats food contaminated with brain or spinal cord tissue from infected animal
2 Disease attacks nervous system
Outer layer of brain develops tiny holes, looks spongy
Bizarre disease
Not carried by germs
Infection-carrying proteins called prions spread mad cow disease
Long incubation period
Years may pass between exposure and symptoms
Related human disease
Variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (vCJD)* is a fatal degenerative brain disorder
• Apparent cause Possibly many years earlier, person consumed cattle products contaminated by mad cow disease
• Rare Fewer than 30 cases reported worldwide in 2011
*"Classic" CJD is a similar brain disease that occurs worldwide in older people
© 2012 MCT
Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Agriculture Department, MCT Photo Service

Senate votes to slow closing of post offices

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate offered a lifeline to the nearly bankrupt U.S. Postal Service on Wednesday, voting to give the struggling agency an $11 billion cash infusion while delaying controversial decisions on closing post offices and ending Saturday delivery.

By a 62-37 vote, senators approved a measure which had divided mostly along rural-urban lines. Over the past several weeks, the bill was modified more than a dozen times, adding new restrictions on closings and cuts to service that rural-state senators said would hurt their communities the most.

The issue now goes to the House, which has yet to consider a separate version of the bill.

"The Postal Service is an iconic American institution that still delivers 500 million pieces of mail a day and sustains 8 million jobs," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., a bill co-sponsor. "This legislation will change the USPS so it can stay alive throughout the 21st century."

The mail agency, however, criticized the measure, saying it fell far short in stemming financial losses. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said if the bill became law, he would have to return to Congress in a few years to get emergency help.

"It is totally inappropriate in these economic times to keep unneeded facilities open. There is simply not enough mail in our system today," the Postal Service's board of governors said in a statement. "It is also inappropriate to delay the implementation of five-day delivery."

The Senate bill would halt the immediate closing of up to 252 mail-processing centers and 3,700 post offices, part of a postal cost-cutting plan to save some $6.5 billion a year. Donahoe previously said he would begin making cuts after May 15 if Congress didn't act, warning that the agency could run out of money this fall.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Judge hears details of Gulf oil spill settlement

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A federal judge in New Orleans said Wednesday he is leaning in favor of granting preliminary approval to a proposed class-action settlement that would resolve billions of dollars in claims against BP over the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The development comes despite objections from a BP contractor on the doomed well project, the Mississippi attorney general and others. After hearing BP and a team of plaintiffs' attorneys outline the proposed deal, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier said he plans to rule within a week. Barbier would hold a "fairness hearing" later this year, possibly in November, before deciding whether to give his final approval. The proposed agreement is intended to resolve more than 100,000 claims by people and businesses who blame economic losses on the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

Burger King makes cage-free eggs, pork promise

In a boost to animal welfare activists looking to get livestock out of cramped cages, Burger King will be the first major U.S. fast-food chain to give all of its chickens and pigs some room to roam. On Wednesday, the world's second-biggest burger chain pledged that all of its eggs and pork will come from cage-free chickens and pigs by 2017, hoping to satisfy rising consumer demand for humanely produced fare and increase its sales in the process. Other companies have made similar but less broad announcements this year, part of an industrywide shift to consider animal welfare when buying food supplies. ***(AP)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Board of Trustees

Public Notice - Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT that the Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting at 3:00 p.m. Friday, April 27, 2012 at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
II. REVIEW & ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. REVIEW & ADOPTION OF MINUTES
IV. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS
V. CEO REPORT
VI. SENIOR MANAGERS REPORTS
VII. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Hospital Emergency Contingency Plan
  B. FY 2012 Budget
  C. Housing
  D. Cost-Cutting Initiatives
  E. Role of the Board
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
  A. Next Meeting
  B. Adjournment

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-12

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Trash Collection Services for a period of two years at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing trash collection services for the Airport as described in the scope of work. The bid package which includes the scope of work, draft agreement, and insurance requirements will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport"*. One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

The apparent lowest bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and insurance requirements. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive and responsible," their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 9:00 am, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

March 19, 2012
Date

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-017

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than June 30, 2012. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2013.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 29, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 14, 2012 to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Nation

TSA defends pat-down of 4-year-old at Kan. airport

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—The grandmother of a 4-year-old girl who became hysterical during a security screening at a Kansas airport said Wednesday that the child was forced to undergo a pat-down after hugging her, with security agents yelling and calling the crying girl an uncooperative suspect.

The incident has been garnering increasing media and online attention since the child's mother, Michelle Brademeyer of Montana, detailed the ordeal in a public Facebook post last week. The Transportation Security Administration is defending its agents, despite new procedures aimed at reducing pat-downs of children.

The child's grandmother, Lori Croft, told The Associated Press that Brademeyer and her daughter, Isabella, initially passed through security at the Wichita airport without incident. The girl then ran over to briefly hug Croft, who was awaiting a pat-down after tripping the alarm, and that's when TSA agents insisted the girl undergo a physical pat-down.

Isabella had just learned about "stranger danger" at school, her grandmother said, adding that the girl was afraid and unsure about what was going on.

"She started to cry, saying `No I don't want to,' and when we tried talking to her she ran," Croft said. "They yelled, `We are going to shut down the airport if you don't grab her.'"

But she said the family's main concern was the lack of understanding from TSA agents that they were dealing with a 4-year-old child, not a terror suspect.

"There was no common sense and there was no compassion," Croft said. "That was our biggest fault with the whole thing—not that they are following security procedures, because I understand that they have to do that."

Marines discharge sergeant for Facebook posts

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A sergeant will be discharged for criticizing President Barack Obama on Facebook in a case that called into question the Pentagon's policies about social media and its limits on the speech of active duty military personnel, the Marine Corps said Wednesday.

Sgt. Gary Stein will get an other-than-honorable discharge and lose most of his benefits for violating the policies, the Corps said.

The San Diego-area Marine who has served nine years in the Corps said he was disappointed by the decision. He argued that he was exercising his constitutional rights to free speech.

"I love the Marine Corps, I love my job. I wish it wouldn't have gone this way. I'm having a hard time seeing how 15 words on Facebook could have ruined my nine-year career," he told The Associated Press.

Gary Kreep, an attorney for Stein, said he would pursue administrative appeals within the Marine Corps but anticipates the effort will fail. He said he planned to file an amended complaint in federal court.

"As long as he wants to pursue this, we will be supporting him," said Kreep, who is executive director of the United States Justice Foundation, an advocacy group.

The Marines acted after saying Stein stated March 1 on a Facebook page used by Marine meteorologists, "Screw Obama and I will not follow all orders from him." Stein later clarified that statement, saying he would not follow unlawful orders.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Yoo, the commanding general of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, said in a brief statement Wednesday that evidence supported an administrative board's recommendation to discharge Stein.

Supreme Court hints OK on Ariz. immigration law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bucking the Obama administration, Supreme Court justices seemed to find little trouble Wednesday with major parts of Arizona's tough immigration law that require police to check the legal status of people they stop for other reasons.

But the fate of other provisions that make Arizona state crimes out of immigration violations was unclear in the court's final argument of the term.

The latest clash between states and the administration turns on the extent of individual states' roles in dealing with the nation's 11 million illegal immigrants. Immigration policy is essentially under the federal government's control, but a half-dozen Republican-dominated states have passed their own restrictions out of frustration with what they call Washington's inaction to combat an illegal flood.

Parts of laws adopted by Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah also are on hold pending the high court's decision.

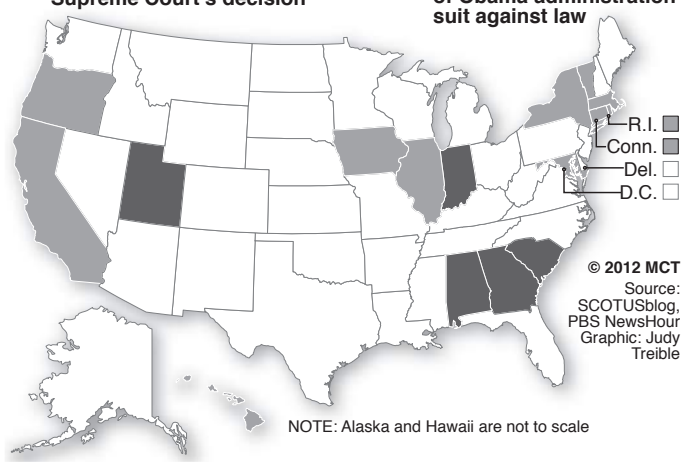
Civil rights groups say the Arizona law and those in some other states encourage racial profiling and ethnic stereotyping, and debate over such laws could have an impact on this fall's elections. More than 200 protesters gathered outside the court, most of them opposed to the Arizona law.

However, in an unusual comment, Chief Justice John Roberts made clear at the outset of the administration's argument Wednesday that the court was looking only at state-versus-federal power, not the civil rights concerns that already are the subject of other lawsuits. "So this is not a case about ethnic profiling," Roberts said.

That matter dealt with, both liberal and conservative justices reacted skeptically to the administration's argument that the state exceeded its authority when it made the records check, and another provision allowing suspected illegal immigrants to be arrested without warrants, part of the Arizona law aimed at driving illegal immigrants elsewhere.

Immigration law and the states

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether Arizona's harsh immigration law is in conflict with the federal government's border control responsibilities. Where some states stand on the law:


States with laws modeled after Arizona's that have been blocked by federal judges pending the Supreme Court's decision
States where attorneys general filed a friend of court brief in support of Obama administration suit against law
R.I.
Conn.
Del.
D.C.
© 2012 MCT
Source: SCOTUSblog, PBS NewsHour
Graphic: Judy Treible
NOTE: Alaska and Hawaii are not to scale

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ROTA HARBOR PLANNING SERVICES

RFQ12-GOV-071

The Office of the Mayor and Rota Legislative Delegation are soliciting statements of professional qualifications ("RFQ") from engineering firms to prepare a feasibility study and conceptual design for the development of the East Harbor, on the Island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Island of Rota has a long history of an unsafe harbor entrance and berthing area that has hampered shipping and economic development. The legislative delegation of the Island of Rota seeks to explore the feasibility of the development of the Rota East Harbor in order to provide long-term solution to these issues.

Interested engineering firms are invited to submit statements of professional qualification. Proposals will be evaluated on experience and information presented in the following five areas:

1. Harbor planning, analysis, and design experience (25%);
2. Harbor construction permitting experience including but not limited to environmental assessment; United States Army Corps of Engineers; and local agency reviews (25%).
3. Financial and economic analysis experience (25%)
4. Proposed approach (25%)
5. Cost estimate for identified services (0%)

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Procurement & Supply. Proposal packets will be available on April 17, 2012 at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). All questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 25, 2012 to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

This procurement is controlled by the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Procurement Regulations as contained in Title 70 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code. Selected contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked RFQ12-GOV-071, Rota Harbor Feasibility Study" and include an original and five copies and must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2012 (ChST)to:

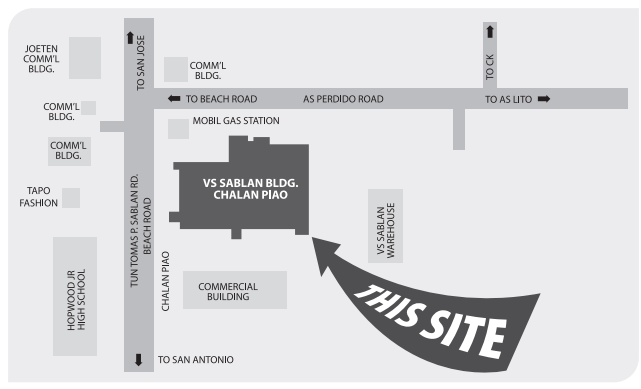
Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notice of Intent to Propose must identify firm; proposal number; location of registered corporate office of firm; identify intent to propose, be signed by authorized individual, and must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:30 pm May 21, 2012 (ChST) via facsimile (670-664-1515) or email at procurement@pticom.com For proposers located outside the CNMI, proposals must be postmarked by the United States Postal Service or the official government postal service of the site of corporate offices no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2012 (ChST) and must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:30 p.m. May 29, 2012 (CHST). Proposers bear all risk concerning providing proper notice and delivery. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualifications for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

VS Sablan Mall Indoor Bazaar in Chalan Piao
Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM
Checkout **OUR INDOOR BAZAAR VENDORS.**
They Have what you need at the Right Price.
House Plants, Orchids & Housewares, Clothing and Accessories on Sale Every Day
Visit Melanie's Gift Shop, Morning Glory, KRM General Merchandise, & Asia Market
Sablan Building Chalan Kanoa
Home of **Pena House Boutique** & the **Bank of Saipan**

SABLAN REALTY
invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations.
Maintenance Free. Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.
Commercial Space Rent at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings. 2nd Floor units Available at San Jose for **50 Cents per Square Foot.**

At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 700 sq ft to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35 cents per square foot.**

2nd Floor Apartment for Rent at our Chalan Kanoa Annex Location – 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 600 sq ft, Newly Refurbished (New Tiles, Paint, Great Floor Plan), Semi Furnished with New Refrigerator & Tabletop 2 Burner Gas Range (Save on Power). Wall Fans Installed in each Room. Must see to Appreciate **REDUCED RENT at $335.00 per Month plus Utilities.**

2nd Floor Apartment at our Chalan Piao Location – 1BR 1 Bath 560 sq ft with Refrigerator $235.00 per month plus Utilities

3rd Floor Apartment for Rent at our Chalan Piao Location – 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Bath, Semi-Furnished with Refrigerator & Stove, 1470 sq ft, Save on Power – Great Breeze thru the Apartment. No Need Air Conditioning. **$550 per month plus Utilities**

For Lease – 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla.
Ocean View. 31 years Remaining on Lease.
Asking 10.00 per square meter. Negotiable.
– 3,779 Sq Meters Available for Lease at Laulau Bay. 44 years Remaining on Lease.
Asking $25.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

Warehouse for Lease – 6750 Square Feet with Storage Yard Fenced in Totaling 2000 Square meters. Located at our Chalan Piao Location.
Asking $2000.00 per Month.

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-9285 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

Asia

War zone or tourist trap? Mulling the Korean DMZ

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP)—Soldiers from rival North and South Korea eye one another across a thin strip of no man's land that—just barely—keeps their armies apart. The tension, they insist on both sides, is palpable.

So what's with the North Korean gift shop selling "See you in Pyongyang" T-shirts for 12 euros apiece? Or the South Korean border towns complete with amusement parks, souvenir blueberry-flavored North Korean liquor and a Popeyes chicken outlet?

Is the Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas the world's most dangerous place, or a tourist trap? Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference.

"There is always a threat to safety here," North Korean Lt. Col. Nam Dong Ho warned a handful of foreign visitors who came to his side of the frontier early this week.

AP

A North Korean soldier looks at the southern side behind a stone pillar at the border village of Panmunjom, the demilitarized zone that separates the two Koreas since the Korean War, north of Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

The usual tensions were augmented by this week's unusually specific vow by the North to turn the South's government into ashes "in three to four minutes," along with speculation Pyongyang might hold its third nuclear test.

Nam reassured his guests that two North Korean soldiers would accompany them during the tour of the tense front line. But the often-smiling pair of soldiers didn't appear the slightest bit worried.

Nam began his tour pointing out highlights on a hand-painted map of the DMZ, the four-kilometer (2.5-mile) wide space that divides the two armies, and Panmunjom, the once-obscure farming village that now hosts the "Joint Security Area" overseen by both sides.

It was in Panmunjom where U.S. and North Korean forces negotiated and eventually signed the 1953 truce that ended fighting in the Korean War.

The two sides technically remain at war, and their frontier is a deeply dangerous place with hundreds of thousands of soldiers stationed nearby, backed by artillery batteries and vast fields of land mines. U.S. war planners worry that incidents along the frontier could spark a major conflict.

But Panmunjom is where the two sides come into contact, and few soldiers are seen during the tours here. There are buildings on both the North and South Korean sides of the front line, with a handful of simple structures straddling the concrete strip that marks the exact cease-fire line.

Today, the buildings are used infrequently, said Nam, such as when North Korea hands over remains of Westerners killed during the Korean war.

So who does come here?

Tellingly, Nam's initial briefing was right next to the gift shop, where visitors can pick up North Korea T-shirts or small flags for 2 euros apiece. Don't even think of spending North Korean won—foreigners can only use hard currencies here.

Japan political power broker acquitted in scandal

TOKYO (AP)—Ichiro Ozawa, the veteran Japanese lawmaker who engineered the ruling party's rise to power, was acquitted Thursday in a political funding scandal that has damaged his chances of becoming prime minister.

The scandal also cost Ozawa his membership in the ruling Democratic Party of Japan, though he continued to wield great influence as a political power broker. The acquittal means his membership could be reinstated, allowing him to exert even more sway.

The 69-year-old was charged last year with overseeing false accounting by his former aides in a murky 2004 land deal. Prosecutors claimed the three aides, who were convicted last year and have since appealed, acted under Ozawa's orders, but the Tokyo District Court said it found no evidence of that.

Though Ozawa played a key role in the party's historic rise to power in 2009, defeating the long-ruling conservatives, he is unpopular with voters and has a negative image as an old-style, wheeling and dealing "shadow shogun." He still has a loyal core of supporters, many of them young politicians whose careers he helped launch.

Prosecutors alleged Ozawa was fully aware of false bookkeeping by the three aides to cover up questionable funds used in the land deal, and that he authorized the false entry of the transaction in an annual political funds report to the government.

Ozawa repeatedly told the court he had no knowledge of his aides' actions. He said his indictment was based on an "unjust and illegal" investigation and demanded that the trial be scrapped.

The three aides, who were tried as a group, were given suspended prison terms of up to three years for failing to register a 400 million yen ($5 million) loan from Ozawa to his funding body in the Tokyo land deal and for accepting 100 million yen ($1.3 million) in illegal donations from a construction company.

Ozawa's trial also caught attention as it revealed that prosecutors had fabricated one of the aides' remarks in interrogation documents.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NATO reports 4 troop deaths in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO says that two service members have been killed in separate attacks in southern Afghanistan, while two others have died of non-battle injuries. The coalition said in statements that one service member was killed by an improvised explosive device Wednesday and another by a similar weapon on Tuesday. NATO said the two other service members died of non-battle injuries, one in the south on Wednesday and another in the east on Tuesday. The U.S.-led coalition did not provide their nationalities nor disclose other details. So far this month, 31 coalition members have died in Afghanistan, bringing the year's toll to 132.

Teen in central China survives sinkhole plunge

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say a teenage girl was rescued by a taxi driver after falling into a deep sinkhole that opened up on a city sidewalk near a school. China Central Television aired footage Wednesday from a surveillance video that showed the teenager in a pink coat falling down the 6-meter (20-foot) hole in Xi'an city in central China last month. Taxi driver Wang Wei told CCTV he witnessed the accident and climbed into the muddy sinkhole to rescue the unconscious teenager. Wang said he patted the girl to wake her up, then helped her climb to safety when firefighters lowered a ladder down to the pair. The China Daily newspaper said in an earlier report the girl was taken to hospital for treatment and recovered.

Kyrgyzstan's eternal flame snuffed out

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—When is an "Eternal Flame" not eternal? In Kyrgyzstan, it's when you don't pay the gas bill. A utilities company in the economically struggling former Soviet nation has turned off the gas supply to a major war memorial in the capital, Bishkek, after city authorities failed to clear a $9,400 debt. The episode reflects the dismal financial state of the Central Asian nation, which has been wracked for years by political unrest and a sluggish economy. Taalai Dalbayev, head of Bishkek gas supply services for Kyrgyzgas, said Wednesday that the bill has been outstanding for 3 years. Despite confusion over who exactly is meant to foot the bill, Kyrgyzgas say it hopes the flame can be reignited by May 9, when most ex-Soviet republics celebrate victory in World War II.

In Celebration of His New Life

JOSE REYES EVANGELISTA

A.K.A. "Josen Daniet" or "Josen Maria"

Born on July 27, 1923 and was called to Eternal Rest on April 21, 2012 at the age of 88.

In His New Life, He Joins His:

Parents: *†Daniel Enabasta Evangelista & †Vicenta Camacho Reyes Evangelista*

Parents-in-law: *†Francisco Shai & †Isabel Dela Cruz Shai †Antonio Boki (Biological Father-in-law)*

Brothers & Spouse: *†Sylvestre R. & †Guadalupe DLC. Evangelista †Alejandro R. & †Vicenta L. Evangelista †Pedro R & †Rehina F. Evangelista †Vicente R. Evangelista*

Sisters & Spouse: *†Faustina R. Evangelista †Maria E. & †Mariano Aquino †Patricinia E. & †Simion Taisacan †Conception E. & †Vicente Taitano*

Brothers & Sisters-in-law & Spouse: *†Jesus DLC. & †Teresita C. Boki †Anna B. & † Manuel N. Babauta †Angela S.N. Shai †Roberto P. Lazaro*

He Will Be Remembered By His:

Wife: *Maria Dela Cruz Boki Evangelista*

Children & Spouse: *Julita E. & +Juan S. Santos David B. & Ana M. Evangelista Miguel B. & +Alicia B. Evangelista Francisco B. & Naomi F. Evangelista Augustin B. & Maria Teresa A. Evangelista Antonio B. & Evelyn R. Evangelista Cristobal B. & Miho K. Evangelista Jose B. Evangelista Jr. Martin B. & Nenita B. Evangelista Alejandro B. Francisca V. Evangelista*

Brothers & Sisters-in-law & Spouse: *Juan DLC & Amelia Shai Rosa S. Lazaro Magdalena S. & Robert S. Reyes*

Jose is additionally survived by his 45 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren (to include 14 serving in the US Armed Forces), and numerous uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Nightly Rosary is being held at 7:00pm at San Jose Catholic Church in Tinian.

On Saturday, April 28, 2012 Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am at the San Jose Catholic Church in Tinian. Interment will follow at the Tinian Cemetery.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Maraming Salamat po.

Maria Dela Cruz Boki Evangelista and Family

World

France raises prospect of military action in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—France raised the prospect of military intervention in Syria on Wednesday, saying the U.N. should consider harsher measures if an international peace plan that has been shaken by violence ultimately collapses.

The statement reflects mounting international frustration with daily attacks that have kept a cease-fire between troops loyal to President Bashar Assad and armed rebels seeking to oust him from taking hold.

Activists said government troops killed at least 29 civilians Wednesday, including 12 killed in shelling in the central city of Hama.

Rebels attacked elsewhere, killing at least four security personnel.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said France had discussed invoking Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which can be enforced militarily, with other world powers. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said last week the United Nations should move toward such a step to allow for measures like travel and financial sanctions and an arms embargo. She didn't mention military action. The U.S. has for more than a year opposed the further militarization of the situation.

Any such move, however, would likely be blocked by Russia and China, which have twice used their vetoes as permanent Council members to protect Syria from condemnation and remain opposed to military intervention. Western powers, too, don't appear interested in sending forces to another Middle East nation in turmoil.

Instead, all parties have backed a peace plan brokered by envoy Kofi Annan that calls for a cease-fire to allow for dialogue between the regime and the opposition on a political solution to the 13-month-old conflict which has killed more than 9,000 people.

That plan, however, has been troubled from the start. Syria has failed to enact key parts of the plan, like withdrawing its forces from cities, and its troops have attacked opposition areas, killing scores of civilians since the truce was to begin on April 12. Rebel fighters, too, have attacked military checkpoints and convoys.

In Paris on Wednesday, Juppe said the plan was "severely compromised" but must go ahead.

"We think this mediation should be given a chance," he said after a meeting with Syrian dissidents. He called for the full contingent of 300 observers authorized by the Security Council to be deployed in Syria in 15 days and said Annan's report on the cease-fire scheduled for May 5 will be a "moment of truth" on whether mediation can solve the conflict.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be defied by the current regime," he said.

In New York, U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin of Russia said he told Moscow that some Security Council members said they had proof that Syria had not withdrawn its forces from cities—as Syria's foreign minister claimed on April 21.

So far, the observer's presence has appeared to prevent violence in some areas while exacerbating it in others. The central city of Homs, shelled daily for months by government troops, has been relatively quiet since two observers took up residence in a local hotel.

But activists said regime forces killed more than 30 people in the central city of Hama this week, just one day after residents welcomed observers with an anti-government rally. Now, two observers remain in Hama.

African Union: Sudan must stop bombing South Sudan

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—The African Union called on Sudan to stop its aerial bombardment of South Sudan and for both countries to cease hostilities, as an uneasy calm settled over the south Wednesday.

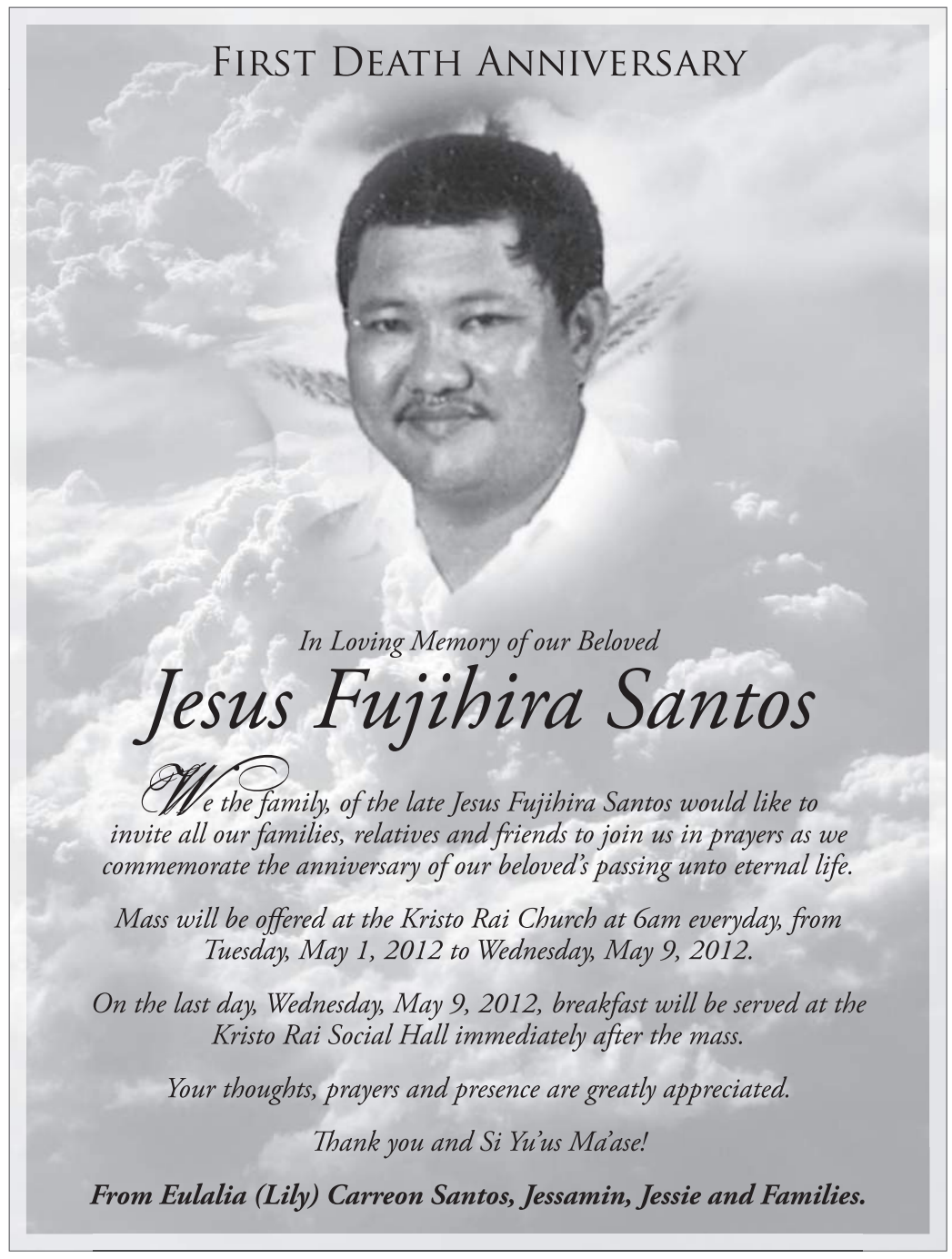
The African Union Peace and Security Council issued a communique with a seven-point roadmap calling for a halt to the fighting and giving Sudan and South Sudan two weeks to restart negotiations which broke down earlier this month. It gave the two nations three months to complete negotiations.

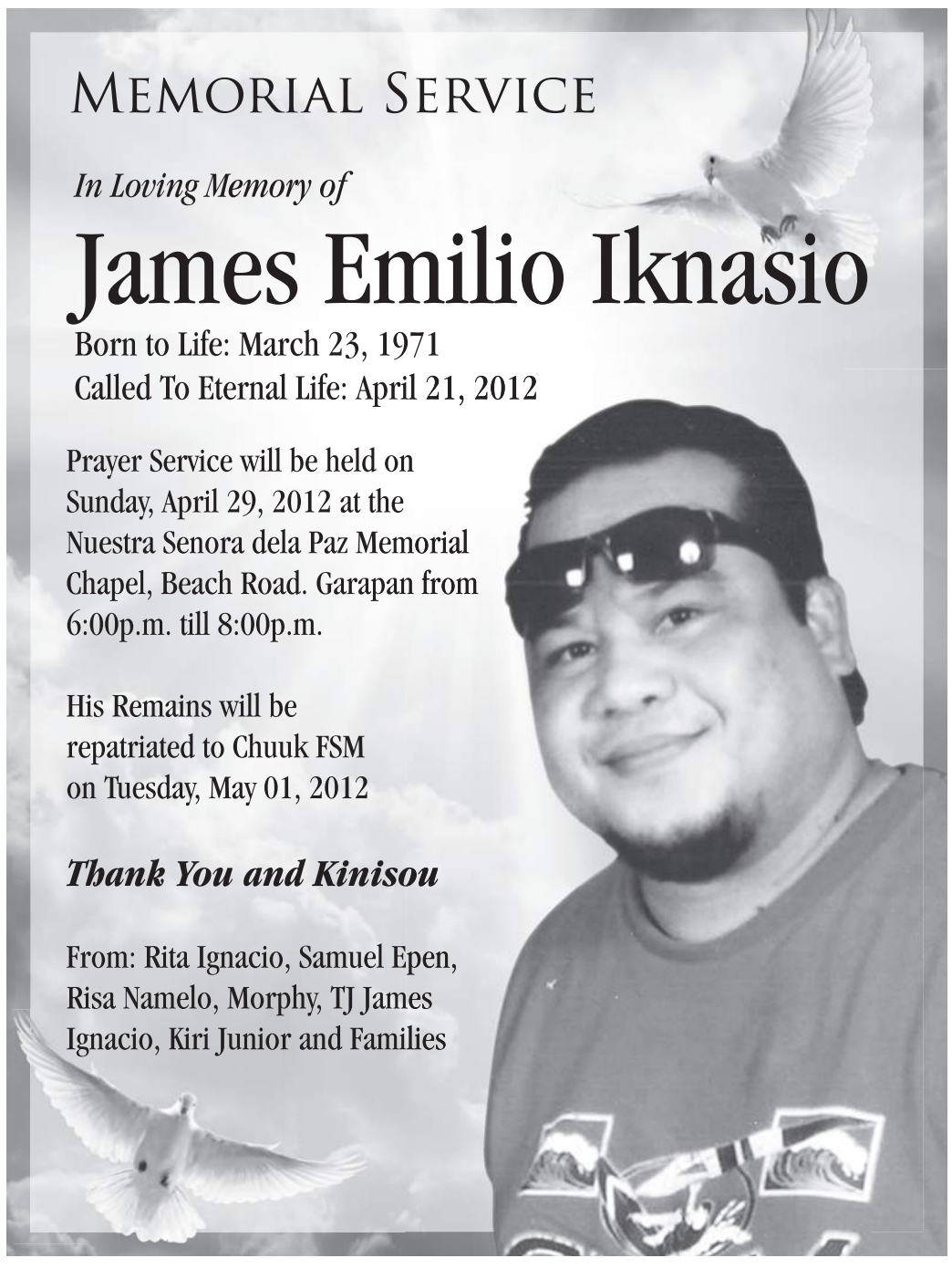
The AU also said Sudan and South Sudan should withdraw their forces from the disputed border region, keep their troops within their borders and stop supporting rebel groups in the other nation. It demanded the two neighboring countries stop issuing inflammatory statements and propaganda that could escalate the conflict. The AU also asked the U.N. Security Council to endorse the roadmap.

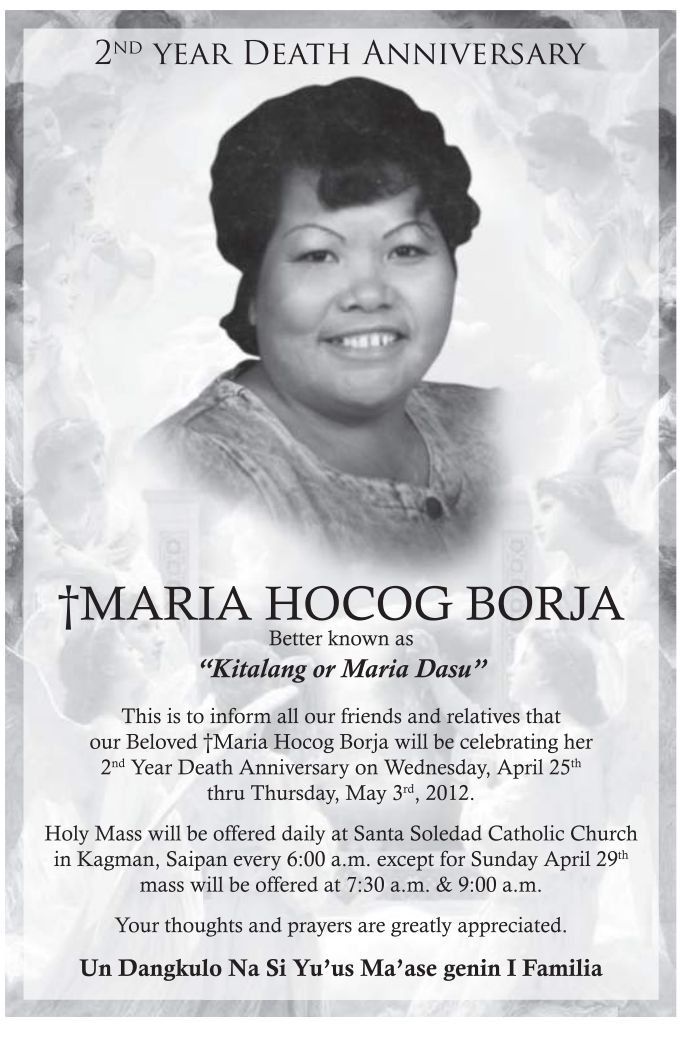
South Sudan won independence from Sudan last year as part of a 2005 peace treaty that ended decades of war that killed 2 million people. The two countries have drawn closer to a full-scale war in recent weeks over the unresolved issues of oil revenues and their disputed border.

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and the current Security Council president, told reporters after a meeting on Sudan late Tuesday that members had just seen the AU communique and would be consulting their governments.

Speaking for the United States, she called it "a positive and constructive contribution" and said the U.S. will be consulting with council members "about their readiness and willingness to contemplate next steps that reflect the thrust of the AU communique."


FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of our Beloved
Jesus Fujihira Santos
We the family, of the late Jesus Fujihira Santos would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.
Mass will be offered at the Kristo Rai Church at 6am everyday, from Tuesday, May 1, 2012 to Wednesday, May 9, 2012.
On the last day, Wednesday, May 9, 2012, breakfast will be served at the Kristo Rai Social Hall immediately after the mass.
Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase!
From Eulalia (Lily) Carreon Santos, Jessamin, Jessie and Families.


MEMORIAL SERVICE
In Loving Memory of
James Emilio Iknasio
Born to Life: March 23, 1971
Called To Eternal Life: April 21, 2012
Prayer Service will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at the Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Beach Road. Garapan from 6:00p.m. till 8:00p.m.
His Remains will be repatriated to Chuuk FSM on Tuesday, May 01, 2012
Thank You and Kinisou
From: Rita Ignacio, Samuel Epen, Risa Namelo, Morphy, TJ James Ignacio, Kiri Junior and Families


2ND YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
†MARIA HOCOG BORJA
Better known as
"Kitalang or Maria Dasu"
This is to inform all our friends and relatives that our Beloved †Maria Hocog Borja will be celebrating her 2nd Year Death Anniversary on Wednesday, April 25th thru Thursday, May 3rd, 2012.
Holy Mass will be offered daily at Santa Soledad Catholic Church in Kagman, Saipan every 6:00 a.m. except for Sunday April 29th mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase genin I Familia

Off the Wall

Airport stripper says he was 'nude but not lewd'

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A high-tech worker who stripped naked at Portland International Airport as a protest against airport security screeners said Wednesday he was being "nude but not lewd," and characterized his act of defiance as protected political speech.

John E. Brennan, 49, of Portland was charged with disorderly conduct and indecent exposure after taking off far more than this belt and shoes during the screening process before a Tuesday evening flight to San Jose, Calif. The incident report from the Port of Portland, which operates the airport, said some passengers covered their eyes and the eyes of their children. Others laughed and took photos. The disorderly conduct charge was dropped at Brennan's arraignment Wednesday.

Brennan said in an interview that he did not arrive at the airport with the intention of getting naked. He said the Transportation Security Administration crosses the line between privacy and security. He decided to protest after he was pulled aside after going through the metal detector and a pat-down, he said.

Port police officers arrested Brennan after he ignored requests to get dressed.

"The most effective way to tell them I'm not carrying a bomb is take off my clothes," Brennan said.

Authorities led Brennan from the screening area with a towel around his waist. Brennan was transferred to a downtown Portland jail and released late Tuesday.

Brennan has criticized TSA previously, saying on Twitter last May that airport security violated his privacy during a pat-down in San Jose. The tweet came after intense criticism in 2010 over the government's use of full-body scanning machines and invasive pat-downs in airport security.

Annie Linstrom, a spokeswoman for the Port of Portland, said two screening lanes closed temporarily during the incident, but there were no flight delays.

This was not the first time Brennan has undressed for political reasons. In Portland, the World Naked Bike Ride attracts thousands each year to protest oil dependence. Brennan said he has ridden in the event three times.

Brennan booked a flight to San Jose for Wednesday night, and had no plans to protest.

Forest Service in quandary about Colo. frozen cows

DENVER (AP)—It may take explosives to dislodge a group of cows that wandered into an old ranger cabin high in the Rocky Mountains, then died and froze solid when they couldn't get out.

The carcasses were discovered by two Air Force Academy cadets when they snow-shoed up to the cabin in late March. Rangers believe the animals sought shelter during a snowstorm and got stuck and weren't smart enough to find their way out.

The cabin is located near the Conundrum Hot Springs, a nine-mile hike from the Aspen area in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness area.

Michael Carroll, a spokesman for the Wilderness Society in Colorado, said cattle are often allowed to wander on federal wilderness lands as long as ranchers get a permit from the Forest Service, and sometimes the animals get separated from the herd.

The Forest Service said Tuesday the animals came from a herd of 29 cows that went missing last fall from the nearby Gunnison National Forest where the rancher had a permit. An aerial search failed to turn up any sign of the animals.

Forest Service spokesman Brian Porter said rangers saw about six cows inside the cabin, and several dead cows lying around the building.

"There is a lot of snow, and it's hard to determine how many cows are there," Porter said.

U.S. Forest Service spokesman Steve Segin said Tuesday they need to decide quickly how to get rid of the carcasses. "Obviously, time is of the essence because we don't want them defrosting," Segin said.

Segin said officials are concerned about water contamination in the nearby hot springs if the cows start decomposing during the thaw.

The options: use explosives to break up the cows, burn down the cabin, or using a helicopters or trucks to haul out the carcasses.

But Segin said using helicopters is too expensive and rangers are worried about using trucks in a wilderness area, where the government bars permanent improvements and tries to preserve the natural habitat.

Carroll praised the Forest Service for trying to remove the animals while doing the least damage. He said burning down the cabin or packing out the carcasses are probably the best solutions.

"They need to use the minimal tool to get the job done. They don't want to leave the land scarred," he said.

Segin said the Forest Service occasionally uses explosives to destroy carcasses of animals that can't be retrieved.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Ohio man's fossil find in Kentucky stumps experts

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Experts are trying to figure out what a fossil dubbed "Godzillus" used to be. The 150-pound fossil recovered last year in northern Kentucky is more than 6 feet long and 3 feet wide. To the untrained eye, it looks like a bunch of rocks or a concrete blob. Experts are trying to determine whether it was an animal, mineral or a form of plant life from a time when the Cincinnati region was underwater. Scientists at a Geological Society of America meeting viewed it Tuesday at the Dayton Convention Center in Ohio. "We are looking for people who might have an idea of what it is," said Ben Dattilo, an assistant professor of geology at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Invite mix-up leads Swede to minister's dinner

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Sweden's environment minister thought she had asked the country's former agriculture minister to attend a glam dinner. But the invitation went to the "wrong" Margareta Winberg—an ordinary Swede who jumped at the chance to mingle, even participating in the group photo. Winberg, a 67-year old retiree from Sundbyberg outside Stockholm, told Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter that although she doesn't know much about the environment, she didn't hesitate in taking up Lena Ek on the offer last week. She told the paper that she wore black trousers and a blouse "with some things on," and that she met interesting people, "like that guy Blix," a reference to former chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix. Ek's spokesman said the minister found the situation "extremely funny."

Austrian thieves make off with 2 tons of coffee

VIENNA (AP)—In a heist that could fill the mother of all bottomless cups, thieves in Austria have made off with 2 tons of coffee. Police say the culprits broke into a wholesaler and coffee-roaster's warehouse east of Vienna, loaded a stolen van with the goods and then drove off. A police statement issued Tuesday put the value of the vehicle and its contents at more than 55,000 euros— $72,000. The thieves also took two coffee machines with them.

Science & Technology

Apple CEO Tim Cook emerges from Steve Jobs' shadow

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple CEO Tim Cook has long seen as the humorless and unemotional guy running the show from behind the scenes. But he is beginning to reveal a more assertive and eloquent side, hinting that he's learning to shoulder more of Steve Jobs' role as a front man and leader.

AP

In this Wednesday, March 7, 2012 photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook announces the new iPad in San Francisco.

On a conference call with journalists and financial analysts late Tuesday, Cook showed some fire when talking about competitors, echoing the combative Jobs. He also spouted a vivid metaphor that spread like wildfire over Twitter before the call was over.

Most Apple watchers have sized up Cook as a competent caretaker of the machine that Apple founder and late CEO Steve Jobs created, but if Cook has latent charisma that can be thawed out further, he may turn into the kind of leader some people think is essential for the company.

In a blog post Wednesday, George Colony, the CEO of Forrester Research, predicted that Apple Inc. will go the way of Sony, fading away now that Jobs is not around to inspire.

"Without the arrival of a new charismatic leader it will move from being a great company to being a good company," he wrote.

Even while Jobs was alive, Cook handled appearances in front of Wall Street analysts. He spoke precisely and calmly, and his language wasn't very quotable. At a Goldman Sachs investors meeting in February, for instance, he said "our high order bit is we want to please customers." A "high order bit" is a computer science term for the most important piece of data in a set.

But on Tuesday, when asked if PCs and tablets might someday blend into one device, like rival PC manufacturers hope, Cook extemporized this response:

"I think anything can be forced to converge. The problem is that products are about tradeoffs, and you begin to make tradeoffs to the point where what you have left at the end of the day doesn't please anyone. You can converge a toaster and a refrigerator, but those things are probably not going to be pleasing to the user."

The "toaster fridge combo" phrase zoomed around Twitter, and within minutes, someone created a "FridgeToaster" account that started talking back at Cook.

Microsoft spokesman Frank Shaw tweeted that Windows 8, the new software that's supposed to bridge tablets and PCs, is "not a toaster/fridge. It's a toaster/oven. Those seem pretty popular. Just saying."

Cook's attack was reminiscent of an appearance by Jobs on a conference call in October 2010, in which he lambasted the idea of tablets smaller than the iPad. Competitor Samsung Electronics was set to launch a small tablet, in the first real challenge to the iPad. Jobs said 7-inch screens were so small that owners would need to file down their fingers with sandpaper to hit buttons accurately.

Later in Tuesday's call, Cook was asked if he'd consider settling some of the patent lawsuits the company is waging against competitors. Apple accuses Samsung and Motorola of copying its iPhone and iPad. Again, Cook revealed some emotion.

"You know, I've always hated litigation and I continue to hate it. We just want people to invent their own stuff," he said.

Carmine Gallo, a communications coach and the author of several books about Apple, says that while it's clear Cook is a much less emotive communicator than Jobs, he could become an effective one.

"Remember, Steve Jobs' stage presence was honed over decades of trying to improve his style and his communications skills. The Steve Jobs of the mid-70s -and there are video tapes of him- was not nearly as polished and charismatic as the Steve Jobs that we knew until last year," Gallo said.

One thing Cook does very well, Gallo said, is that when he presents a number he wants listeners to care about, he puts it into a meaningful context.

TECHNOLOGY BRIEFS

Facebook strengthens security with partnerships

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is strengthening its security controls in an attempt to protect its 900 million users from spam and malicious content. Facebook said Wednesday that it will work with Microsoft Corp. and with computer security firms Trend Micro Inc., Sophos, Symantec Corp. and Intel Corp.'s McAfee to provide safeguards on Facebook. To do so, Facebook is expanding its blacklist system for blocking malicious Web links shared on the social network. And the security companies will offer free six-month trials of their antivirus software to Facebook users. Facebook Inc. says less than 4 percent of the content shared through its social network is spam. That figure is much higher for email, though a lot of spam emails are filtered out even before they hit your spam folder.

First wizards, now pirates for online game maker

NEW YORK (AP)—For one online game maker, pirates evolved from wizards. KingsIsle, the maker of a popular multiplayer game for kids, is unveiling its second title, "Pirate 101," on Wednesday. It's a world of floating ships and do-gooder pirates inspired by its other game, "Wizard 101." "We've succeeded in creating a game that is very different from `Wizard101,' but remains comfortable and familiar," said Todd Coleman, vice president and creative director of KingsIsle. The games are free to play. KingIsle Entertainment, which is based in Plano, Texas, makes money by charging fees for optional, virtual items that enhance game play. That strategy has proven lucrative for the newest generation of game companies, notably Zynga Inc., whose games are played mainly on Facebook. "Wizard 101" has 25 million players and is launching in China this year. "Pirate 101" is currently being tested. It will be available to the general public later this year.

Life & Style

'30 Rock' to live it up with live episode Thursday

NEW YORK (AP)—In a move to inject new life into its kookiness, "30 Rock" is going live this week.

It will be the second such outing for the NBC comedy, which is normally a polished, single-camera filmed affair. It went live for a night in October 2010 with an episode performed during the show's normal time slot, then restaged for West Coast viewers.

The same plan will be followed this Thursday: Originating from NBC's Studio 8H (fabled home of "Saturday Night Live"), "30 Rock" will air live for viewers in the Eastern and Central time zones at 8:30 p.m. EDT, then be reprised at 8:30 PDT for the rest of the country.

The theme of the episode plays into the idea of Live vs. Filmed. The Kabletown corporate bosses announce they will no longer pay for live production of "TGS" (the fictitious show-within-a-show produced by Liz Lemon, played by "30 Rock" star Tina Fey). After first resisting, Liz and NBC exec Jack Donaghy (co-star Alec Baldwin) realize their lives would be simplified by shooting "TGS" episodes on film, fast and cheap.

But Kenneth the Page (Jack McBrayer) objects, arguing that nothing can replace the excitement of live television.

AP

In this 2011 image released by NBC, Alec Baldwin portrays Jack Donaghy, left, and Tina Fey portrays Liz Lemon in the NBC comedy series, "30 Rock." The series will broadcast live on Thursday, April 26, 2012.

Time will tell.

"30 Rock" could use a little excitement. Although highly acclaimed and richly awarded during its six seasons, it has begun to lose the comic edge that set it apart. And, while never a ratings juggernaut, it has seen its audience further soften this season (just 3 million viewers tuned in last week).

Clearly, "30 Rock" could use a jolt. A stunt like going live is one way to score renewed attention and, perhaps, a boost in viewership.

In TV, live is a favorite way to shake things up.

"The Drew Carey Show" aired a live, improv-laced episode in 1999. Two years before that, "ER" staged an ambitious live hour of that medical drama.

"Will & Grace" kicked off its season in September 2005 with a live episode whose guest star was none other than Alec Baldwin.

Donald Trump demands Scotland nix wind turbines

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP)—He came, he saw, he blustered.

Donald Trump on Wednesday swept into Scotland's parliament to demand the country end plans for an offshore wind farm he fears will spoil the view at his exclusive new $750-million-pound ($1.2-billion) golf resort.

In a typically blunt display, the New York property tycoon told an inquiry into renewable energy to stop the wind power efforts in the country's north.

"Scotland, if you pursue this policy of these monstrous turbines, Scotland will go broke," he said. "They are ugly, they are noisy and they are dangerous. If Scotland does this, Scotland will be in serious trouble and will lose tourism to places like Ireland, and they are laughing at us."

Members of the committee are looking at how achievable the Scottish government's green targets for 2020 are. The plans for 11 200-foot (60-meter) tall wind turbines are part of the government's goal of positioning itself as a leader in renewable energy.

When challenged to produce hard evidence about his claims on the negative impact of turbines, Trump said: "I am the evidence, I am a world class expert in tourism."

The public gallery burst into laughter.

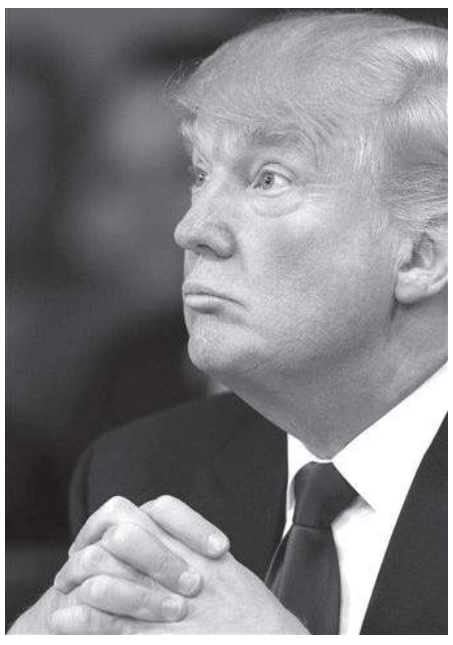
Trump claimed Scottish leader Alex Salmond and his predecessor Jack McConnell gave him verbal assurances a wind farm would not be built off the coast of his resort.

"They wanted my money," Trump said. "I was lured into buying the site, after I had spent my money they came and announced the plan. At the time I bought the land I felt confident the wind farm was not going to happen."

The inquiry heard that Trump paid 4.5 million pounds ($7.2 million) for the majority of the land eight miles (12km) north of Aberdeen in January 2006. The resort is due to open on July 10.

There was an irony to Trump's complaints: When Salmond backed Trump's plans for the result, he was hailed a "great man" by the tycoon.

But Trump turned on the leader over plans to put the wind turbine farm off the coast and within view of the golf course. He claims the turbines will ruin the environment and will be bad for tourism.



AP

In this photo released by the Scottish Parliament dated Wednesday April 25, 2012, US business magnate Donald Trump gives evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Economy Energy and Tourism Committee in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Lawyer enters no contest plea for Bobby Brown

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for Bobby Brown has entered a no contest plea for the singer to one count of drunken driving stemming from an arrest last month.

City attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan (mah-TEHL'-jin) says Brown was sentenced to three years of informal probation and a 90-day alcohol education course.

Brown's attorney Tiffany Feder entered the plea Wednesday and confirmed the remaining driving under the influence count was dismissed.

She declined further comment on the case.

The former New Edition singer and ex-husband of Whitney Houston was arrested March 26 after he was spotted talking on a cell phone without a hands free kit.

The plea was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.

AP

In this Feb. 18, 2012 file photo, singer Bobby Brown, former husband of the late Whitney Houston performs with New Edition at Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn.

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Pirates! Band of Misfits

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Hugh Grant, Brendan Gleeson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Set sail for fun with this family-friendly Aardman Animations adventure following a bumbling, abundantly bearded scallywag who competes against his two biggest rivals for the title Pirate of the Year. Try as he might, the Pirate Captain (Hugh Grant) just can't be taken seriously as a plunderer. But that might change if he could only manage to win the Pirate of the Year competition. As the event gets under way, the Pirate Captain makes it his mission to leave dreaded foes Black Bellamy (Jeremy Piven) and Cutlass Liz (Salma Hayek) sinking in his wake.

Safe

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

The Five Year Engagement

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

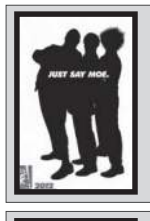
Jason Segel, Emily Blunt
Comedy • Rated R

★ ★ ★

The Lucky One

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Drama • Rated PG 13



Three Stooges

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Cabin In The Woods

Friday		4:20		9:35
Saturday		4:20		9:35
Sunday		4:20		
Monday thru Thursday		4:20		

Richard Jenkins, Bradley Whitford
Thriller • Rated R

Wrath Of The Titans

Friday			7:20	
Saturday	1:20		7:20	
Sunday	1:20		7:20	
Monday thru Thursday			7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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Judge adds Spears' fiance to conservatorship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney's Spears' fiance now has the blessing of a judge to help manage the singer's personal affairs.

Jason Trawick received approval Wednesday from Superior Court Judge Reva Goetz to become a co-conservator over the Grammy-winning singer.

He joins her father Jamie Spears in that role and will have control over several decision-making aspects of her personal life but not in managing her assets.

Spears requested that Trawick join her court conservatorship a few months after the couple became engaged. They appeared in court together earlier this year, but the entertainer did not attend Wednesday's hearing.

She has been under a court-ordered conservatorship since February 2008, when her father stepped in to take control after she had been hospitalized twice and had a series of incidents involving erratic behavior.

AP

In this Aug. 28, 2011 file photo, Jason Trawick and Britney Spears arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles. On Wednesday, April 25, 2012, LA Superior Court Judge Reva Goetz approved Spears' request that her fiance, Jason Trawick, be appointed a co-conservator over her personal affairs.

Geraldine Wyle, an attorney for Jamie Spears, said after the hearing that her client was thrilled to have Trawick involved. Much of the hearing was closed to the public.

Trawick, who has served as Spears' agent, attended the hearing but did not comment after its conclusion.

At the request of attorneys handling the case, the judge did not consider the merits of whether to sell Spears' former home in the Hollywood Hills for more than $4 million. The sale can go forward without court approval.

The judge sealed several records related to the singer's health and settlements of lawsuits.

Octomom gets social services visit after complaint

AP

In this May 19, 2010 file photo, "Octomom" Nadya Suleman poses for photos outside her La Habra, Calif., home.

LA HABRA, Calif. (AP)—Police and California child welfare officials who visited Nadya Suleman's home after someone claimed that her 14 children were living in squalor say they did not find evidence that the children are in any danger.

La Habra police Sgt. Daniel Barnes says officers and Orange County Department of Family and Children's Services officials examined Suleman's home in Southern California on Tuesday and did not find anything unusual.

The entertainment news website TMZ.com says Suleman's hairstylist told police the house was a mess and there was only one working toilet in the home.

Barnes told City News Service that someone reported filth in the home.

The 36-year-old Suleman became known as Octomom after she gave birth to eight babies in January 2009. They are the world's longest-living octuplets.

Wills, Kate attend 'African Cats' London premiere

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and his wife Kate were guests of honor at the U.K. premiere of Disneynature's "African Cats" on Wednesday.

Filmed in Kenya's Masai Mara region from August 2008 to October 2010, "African Cats" follows a pride of lions and a family of cheetahs in the savanna. British actor Sir Patrick Stewart narrates the documentary, which is directed by Keith Scholey ("Big Cat Diary") and Alastair Fothergill ("Earth," "Deep Blue").

The event was held at the British Film Institute on London's Southbank, and served as a charity fundraiser for the conservation group Tusk Trust.

Tusk Trust has 40 projects in 17 African countries that aim to protect wildlife, alleviate poverty and encourage education in rural communities. Prince William has been the charity's Royal Patron since 2005.

"It's what we call an 'integrated approach' to conservation," said Charlie Mayhew, the charity's chief executive. "It's really that integration that has drawn Prince William as our patron. It's something that he believes passionately in, and tonight's premiere of 'African Cats' just gives us an opportunity to communicate that onto the global stage."

AP

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, center, arrive under an umbrella for the UK Premiere of 'African Cats', in aid of 'Tusk Trust', at the BFI Southbank in central London, Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

Scholey and Fothergill said keeping track of the stars in "African Cats" was a substantial task.

"The most challenging (part) was actually to stay with our cats for a whole two year period," Scholey said. "These are wild animals, they can go wherever they want, and we had to stay with the same characters, so that was quite hard."

"We're looking here at a drama, a soap-opera, but it's all real-life," said cameraman Simon King. "There are elements of the story that we couldn't possibly have hoped to have written. The natural world wrote the script."

"African Cats" will be released in the U.K. and Ireland on Friday.

Jane Goodall named grand marshal of Rose Parade

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Chimpanzee expert and conservationist Jane Goodall was named Wednesday as grand marshal of the 2013 Tournament of Roses.

The honor was announced outside the tournament's stately mansion headquarters, where Goodall greeted well-wishers with the kind of chimpanzee call she said can be heard in Tanzania's Gombe National Park.

Goodall, 78, said she was startled when she was asked to be grand marshal of the annual floral spectacle, which next year will have the theme "Oh, the Places You'll Go."

"As most of you know, I spent many, many years of my life out with the wild chimpanzees in Africa—kind of different from Pasadena," she said to laughter.

As grand marshal, the British primatologist will ride in the 124th Rose Parade and attend the 99th Rose Bowl football game on New Year's Day.

AP

Chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall holds a monkey doll she brings with her wherever she travels after being named as the grand marshal of Pasadena's 2013 Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif. on Wed. April 25,2012.

Goodall, who began groundbreaking studies on chimpanzees in 1960, founded the Jane Goodall Institute to protect the Gombe chimpanzees and also works to protect endangered species.

Departing from the ceremony's standard cheeriness, Goodall briefly delved into serious matters.

"I think all of us here know that the world is really in a bit of a mess," she said, referring to the issue of climate change.

"When I think of how the world was when I was a child ... and what we've done to harm the planet since then, I feel a kind of desperation. But if we all get together it's not too late to reverse this trend," she said.

Facebook thank-yous are no substitute for individual notes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended a baby shower for a dear high school friend and his wife. The day after the shower, she posted a slideshow on Facebook titled "Thanks for All Our Gifts" with a picture of each gift and who gave it. She has had numerous miscarriages and held this shower at five months, knowing the baby is not yet at a viable stage.

While I feel sympathy for her fertility issues, and especially for her husband who desperately wants to be a father, I think this is a bid for attention. I am disgusted at how she seems to be bragging about her haul, yet prepping everyone to give her an outpouring of support if there is another tragic loss.

Who does this? I am ...

SPEECHLESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR SPEECHLESS: Most baby showers are given four to six weeks before the mother's due date. However, it's possible that your friend's wife had hers at five months because, with her history of miscarriages, she's excited that her pregnancy seems to be progressing well and she's thinking positively about the outcome. I hope it works out well and so should you.

As to her method of thanking everyone for the gifts, she may never have been taught that individual thank-you notes should have been sent to each guest. Because it is clear that you are closer to the husband than the wife, perhaps you should tip him off that it's still not too late for them to do the right thing and suggest he help her with them.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced from my wife for almost a year, with another year of separation preceding that. We divorced because of arguments, not because of abuse, adultery or substance abuse issues. The divorce actually seemed to take on a life of its own.

Because I have a small son with her, I desperately want to attempt a reconciliation. She is reticent about it, however, mainly because I believe she's getting pressure from her family. How can I persuade her to go out with me so we can rekindle the spark we once shared?

MISSING MY OLD LIFE

DEAR MISSING: Before a couple can successfully reconcile, they must first resolve the problems that caused the separation in the first place. That would be the way to begin. However, are you aware that not once in your letter did you say that you still love your ex-wife? If the reason you want to "rekindle the spark" is that you miss being with your child and the comforts of being married—but not her—then I don't think you have much chance of success.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My child's best friend has a parent who is constantly late (to the tune of hours, not minutes). I understand that the child is not at fault, but my child's feelings are hurt by the blatant disregard of the other parent's tardiness. How do I help this parent (whom I adore otherwise) to understand that disappointing my child through poor time management is not acceptable to our family without hurting both children?

WATCHING THE CLOCK

DEAR CLOCK WATCHER: If you haven't told the parent that it is hurtful when your child is kept waiting for hours for a play date, you should. And if that doesn't bring the desired result, your child should be encouraged to move on to some other activity and/or another companion.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

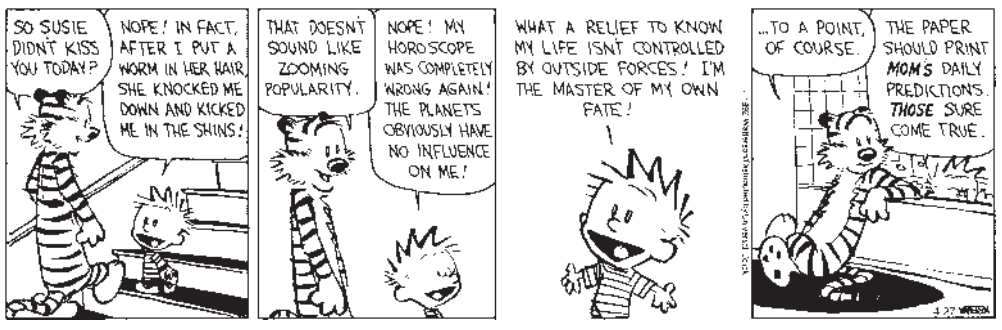
■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SO SUSIE DIDN'T KISS YOU TODAY?
NOPE! IN FACT, AFTER I PUT A WORM IN HER HAIR, SHE KNOCKED ME DOWN AND KICKED ME IN THE SHINS!
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ZOOMING POPULARITY.
NOPE! MY HOROSCOPE WAS COMPLETELY WRONG AGAIN! THE PLANETS OBVIOUSLY HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON ME!
WHAT A RELIEF TO KNOW MY LIFE ISN'T CONTROLLED BY OUTSIDE FORCES! I'M THE MASTER OF MY OWN FATE!
...TO A POINT, OF COURSE.
THE PAPER SHOULD PRINT MOM'S DAILY PREDICTIONS. THOSE SURE COME TRUE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

EEK! THE CAT!
JIM DAVIS 4-27
FEAR NOT! THERE IS SAFETY IN NUMBERS!
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
FUNNY... I DON'T FEEL SAFE
I LOVE FIELD TRIPS
SHUT UP
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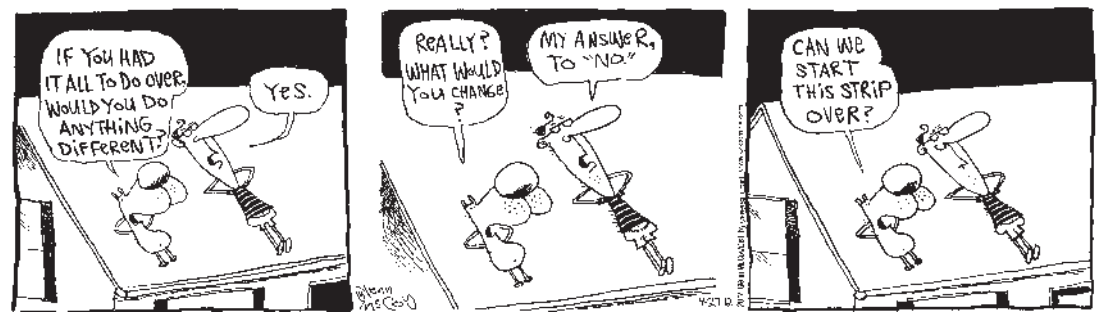
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

LAURA, DO YOU THINK WE'RE HAPPY?
I AM.
I AM, TOO. IT'S JUST, I THOUGHT WE'D BE RICH BY NOW.
ADAM, I DIDN'T MARRY YOU FOR WHAT YOU COULD GIVE ME.
I MARRIED YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE.
...AND ALSO MY GOOD LOOKS.
YES. AND YOUR WONDERFUL NAIVETE.
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IF YOU HAD IT ALL TO DO OVER, WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING DIFFERENT?
YES.
REALLY? WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?
MY ANSWER, TO "NO."
CAN WE START THIS STRIP OVER?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

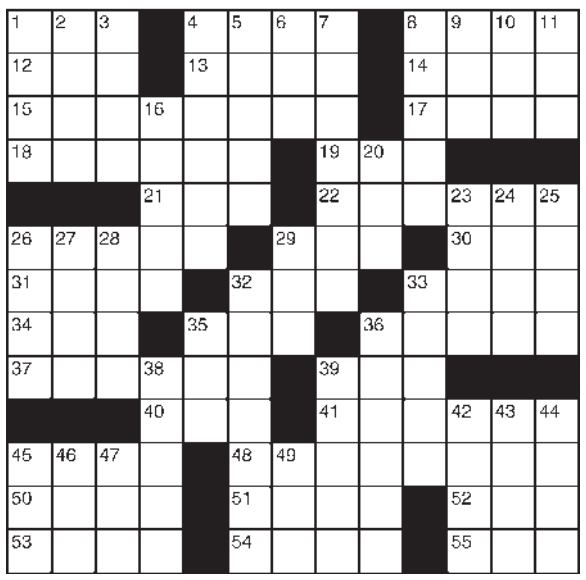
ACROSS
1 Slithery squeezer
4 Gridlock sound
8 Fork option
12 Screw up
13 Jealousy
14 Therefore
15 Sign up
17 Black, in verse
18 Peanut
19 Puncturing tool
21 Pigpen
22 Fellow's address
26 Calendar information
29 Card player's call
30 Hasten
31 Unsigned (Abbr.)
32 Blue
33 Detective novelist Paretsky
34 "Monty Python" opener
35 Navigation gizmo
36 Waste channel
37 Nun
39 $ dispenser
40 Ostrich's cousin
41 Asian hostess
45 Hair salon request
48 Flour holder, maybe
50 Barrel piece
51 Paradise
52 Branch
53 Grooving on
54 Creates dust?
55 Chesapeake, for one

DOWN
1 "Wozzeck" composer
2 Sandwich treat
3 Jason's ship
4 Surrounds
5 Contestant
6 Prior night
7 Increase progressively
8 Rods' partners
9 Scepter topper
10 Past
11 Mafia title
16 "Ghosts" playwright
20 Victory
23 Melt
24 Green land
25 Caboose's place
26 Raised platform
27 Con
28 Pitch
29 Petrol
32 Makes neat
33 Big rigs
35 Prized possession
36 Oktoberfest supply
38 Beat
39 Ford predecessor
42 Attempt
43 Queen of Olympus
44 Host
45 — Beta Kappa
46 A billion years
47 Decay
49 Oklahoma city

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	A	T	H	■	P	A	N	S	■	C	H	A
A	I	O	F	■	A	I	O	U	■	H	U	N
S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R	S	■	A	N	T
S	O	I	R	E	E	■	■	H	I	N	G	E
■	■	■	S	O	■	T	H	I	N	G	■	■
C	A	G	E	■	P	I	E	■	K	E	N	T
A	I	R	■	■	A	T	E	■	■	R	A	H
B	L	A	B	■	I	L	L	■	A	S	H	Y
■	■	■	N	O	B	L	E	■	I	D	■	■
R	E	G	A	L	■	■	G	O	A	T	E	E
O	W	E	■	E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R	S
O	E	R	■	S	O	N	S	■	E	L	I	N
M	R	S	■	S	W	A	P	■	S	A	N	E

Yesterday's answer 4-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: William Moseley, 25; Sheena Easton, 53; Ace Frehley, 61; Casey Kasem, 80.

Happy Birthday: Don't take too much time pondering whether to do something. It's vital that you make moves based on your needs if you want to continue to advance. Changing your scenery, making a geographical move or hanging out with new acquaintances will build your confidence and lead you in a better direction. Your numbers are 2, 13, 22, 25, 34, 43, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): One step at a time. Make sure you aren't infringing on someone else's territory before moving forward. Keeping everything out in the open will help you deal with each problem that occurs before it has a chance to escalate. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Focus on your goals, and make sure you haven't left anyone or anything out. Keep your costs low to avoid undue financial stress. Visiting someone who can contribute to your plans will help you do what you want to do with expertise. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may be talkative, but before you share too much, consider the consequences and whom your conversations will affect. Less said and more done will bring much better results. Showing greater discipline and trust will enhance your reputation. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep your life simple and moderate. Don't let anyone aggravate you. Back away from any situation that is unpredictable. Concentrate on what you can do to make your life better. Stand by a trusted friend, and favors will be granted in return. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You've got the knowledge and the pizzazz to make things happen. Don't let anyone stand in your way or cause you grief. Stifle whoever tries to take over. Flaunt what you have to offer and carry your plans through to the end. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Have some fun. Be a participant. Show everyone what you have to offer. Someone entrepreneurial will want to help turn your idea into something substantial. Listen, but don't let matters get too big too fast. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put your heart on the line. Express your true feelings and let the response you get guide you. A professional change should not upset you. Go with the flow and you will discover that you fit in, no matter what happens around you. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take time to discover what you have to offer. You are more talented then you give yourself credit for. A partnership that has overwhelmed you must be put in perspective. Realize you have much to offer and you will gain greater control. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Honesty will play a major role in your partnerships. Respect should be your goal. Make a commitment to someone who counts and you will be able to make positive changes that will improve your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make plans to invite people over for a visit or to discuss the possibility of making a move, renovating your space or improving your home situation. Listen to what's being said, but research thoroughly before making a final decision. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Avoid anyone trying to cause problems for you. Love is on the rise, and attending a social event will enhance your current relationship or bring you in contact with someone you want to get to know better. Don't exaggerate. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look back at a past incident and you will know how to handle an emotional problem now. Touch base with an old friend, or get involved in a project that will allow you to fulfill goals you shelved long ago. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are expressive and opportunistic. Let ambition and success be your motives.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6				9		
2			3		4			1
		4				2		
9				7				6
7				8				4
4				6				5
		2				5		
6			1		8			9
		3				7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	2	5	6	7	1	3	9
6	5	7	9	3	1	8	2	4
9	1	3	4	8	2	7	6	5
8	4	1	6	2	9	5	7	3
2	3	5	7	4	8	9	1	6
7	6	9	3	1	5	4	8	2
5	2	4	8	7	3	6	9	1
1	9	8	2	5	6	3	4	7
3	7	6	1	9	4	2	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FOUND IN A TRUNK Solution: 7 letters

S	E	R	E	H	S	I	U	G	N	I	T	X	E	L
K	S	B	D	E	W	B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	B	E
C	O	L	L	O	M	B	A	C	K	P	A	C	K	V
O	H	B	O	A	O	S	Ⓢ	Ⓖ	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	D	N	E	O
R	A	D	N	O	N	F	K	P	O	N	E	E	N	H
C	O	U	K	A	T	K	E	C	A	R	J	G	I	S
T	A	S	C	E	L	R	E	S	I	A	E	R	L	T
L	O	K	S	I	R	I	S	T	C	R	O	E	O	R
A	S	R	G	E	T	S	N	K	I	R	B	M	S	O
S	U	H	L	S	R	O	N	F	R	E	A	E	A	L
P	T	O	T	A	P	P	W	I	L	E	R	P	G	L
T	O	N	G	E	R	A	M	E	A	A	P	A	E	E
C	E	S	L	I	N	G	M	O	L	H	T	M	P	R
T	R	A	S	H	S	A	L	F	C	S	C	O	U	S
S	E	O	H	S	E	I	R	E	C	O	R	G	R	J

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Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070
e-mail "joshuaberger711@hotmail.com"

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL CASE NO. 07-0324 A**
vs.	]	**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**
DARCY BILL S. MARATITA and MELDA M.C. MARATITA, Defendants.	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint in this matter, a copy of which may be obtained at the law office below or the Superior Court, within **twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication** of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor , D' Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Sususpe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED March 30, 2012

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0505**
-v-	]	
ALEINA D. HOFSCHNEIDER, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER, and LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER, Defendants.	]	**FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

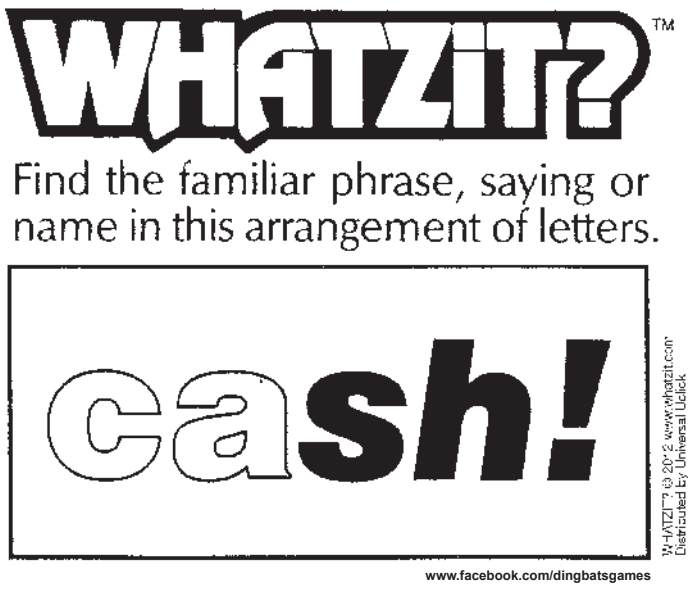
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot 005 I 547, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered on May 14, 1982, as Document No. 14232, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and (b) Lot 1734 NEW-7-5 (formerly part of Lot 1734 NEW-3, which was part of original Lot 1734, T.D. 661), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 20179/90, the original of which was recorded on November 15, 1989, as Document No. 89-3805, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 4, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of April, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer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Jones lifts Braves past Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Chipper Jones singled home the go-ahead run in his final regular season at-bat at Dodger Stadium after Dan Uggla tied it with his second RBI single earlier in the ninth inning, and the Atlanta Braves defeated Los Angeles 4-2 Wednesday night.

Dodgers closer Javy Guerra (1-3) lost for the third time in his last five appraranes after giving up five consecutive one-out hits in the ninth. The second one was a liner that ricocheted off his face, but manager Don Mattingly kept the right-hander in there and he surrendered RBI singles to Uggla, Jones and Jason Heyward.

Jonny Venters (2-0) struck out the side in the 8th inning and Craig Kimbrell got the last three outs for his seventh save.

AP

Atlanta Braves' Chipper Jones, rihgt, hits an RBI single as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher A.J. Ellis looks on during the ninth inning of their baseball game, Wednesday, April 25, 2012, in Los Angeles.

Mets 5, Marlins 1

In New York, David Wright hit a two-run homer to become the Mets' career RBIs leader, R.A. Dickey outpitched Mark Buehrle in a crafty duel Wednesday night and New York beat the Miami Marlins 5-1.

The Marlins have lost four in a row, scoring only four runs in the skid. Jose Reyes singled in the eighth inning for his first hit against his former team in eight at-bats, eliciting yet another chorus of lusty boos from the crowd that once adored him.

Wright's homer gave him 735 RBIs and broke a tie with Darryl Strawberry for the team lead.

Nationals 7, Padres 2

In San Diego, Jordan Zimmermann helped Washington set a team record for the longest scoreless innings streak for starters before Orlando Hudson homered and the NL East-leading Nationals beat San Diego.

Zimmermann (1-1) held San Diego without a run for four innings to give Washington starters 26 straight scoreless frames. Tom Gorzelanny got his first save.

The Nationals (14-4) won their fourth straight and are off to their best 18-game start since coming to Washington in 2005.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 1

In Chicago, David Freese homered and Lance Lynn threw eight strong innings to lead the St. Louis Cardinals over Chicago.

Lynn (4-0) held the Cubs to six hits in becoming the first four-game winner in the majors and helping the Cardinals avoid a three-game sweep.

Freese's two-run shot in the sixth capped a three-run, two-out rally against starter Chris Volstad (0-3).

Phillies 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Cole Hamels pitched eight strong innings and also hit a two-run single as the Philadelphia Phillies beat Arizona.

Hamels (3-1) gave up a leadoff double to Willie Bloomquist in the first, then retired the next 18 batters.

The left-hander allowed two runs and four hits. He struck out seven, including his final three hitters.

Reds 4, Giants 2

In Cincinnati, Scott Rolen's homer started a four-run rally in the seventh inning that swept the Cincinnati Reds to a win and extended San Francisco's misery at Great American Ball Park.

Rolen's first homer since July 6 ended Barry Zito's shutout and got into the Giants' bullpen. Clay Hensley (1-2) threw wildly for an error after slipping as he fielded a bunt and Jeremy Affeldt's wild pitch allowed the go-ahead run to score.

Astros 7, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Jose Altuve had a career-best four hits and J.D. Martinez had three hits and three RBIs as the Houston Astros ended their 11-game losing streak to Milwaukee.

Chris Snyder put the Astros ahead for good at 5-4 with an RBI single in the seventh off Jose Veras (2-1) after Brian Bogusevic doubled and stole third.

Wilton Lopez (2-0) pitched a 1-2-3 sixth, and Brett Myers got three outs for his third save.

Rockies 2, Pirates 1, 1st Game
Pirates 5, Rockies 1, 2nd Game

In Pittsburgh, Pedro Alvarez hit his second home run of the day, Charlie Morton pitched seven solid innings and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat Colorado to split a doubleheader.

Alvarez helped Pittsburgh's tepid offense tie a season high in runs in the second game, hitting a solo shot off Jhoulys Chacin (0-2) to cap a five-run fifth.

In the opener, Colorado broke up James McDonald's no-hit bid in the seventh. Matt Reynolds (2-0) won in relief and Rafael Betancourt worked the ninth for his sixth save.

Chris Resop (0-2) lost after relieving McDonald in the eighth.

Red Sox 7, Twins 6

In Minneapolis, Mike Aviles homered and the Boston Red Sox bullpen just barely avoided another big collapse in a victory over Minnesota.

Alfredo Aceves struck out Denard Span with the bases loaded in the ninth inning for his fourth save in six chances as the Red Sox completed the sweep.

Dustin Pedroia tripled, doubled and singled for the Red Sox. The Twins have dropped five in a row.

Clay Buchholz (2-1) had another shaky outing for the Red Sox, giving up five runs on 10 hits with three walks in 5 1-3 innings.

Rangers 7, Yankees 3

In Arlington, Adrian Beltre hit a long home run and had a pair of RBI singles as the Texas Rangers beat the New York Yankees 7-3 Wednesday night, winning their sixth consecutive series to start a season for the first time in franchise history.

Mike Napoli and Mitch Moreland also homered for the two-time defending AL champion Rangers (15-4), who have the best record in the majors.

Texas was ahead to stay after Beltre led off the second against Phil Hughes (1-3) with his third homer, a 441-foot drive that landed high on the grassy hill in straightaway center field. Beltre's first run-scoring single came an inning later when Texas added three more runs.

Mariners 9, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Felix Hernandez allowed only a run in seven innings, rookie Alex Liddi hit a two-run homer and the Seattle Mariners went on to beat the slumping Detroit Tigers.

Hernandez (2-1) gave up a solo homer to Brennan Boesch in the third and not much else. The right-hander yielded four hits and three walks, giving all of the free passes in the first.

Adam Wilk (0-3) allowed six runs and eight hits in just two-plus innings. The rookie gave up just two runs in each of his first two starts.

Rays 3, Angels 2

In St. Petersburg, Jeremy Hellickson overcame early struggles to pitch six effective innings and Ben Zobrist homered.

Hellickson (3-0), who held Los Angeles hitless in six at-bats with runners in scoring position through the second, allowed one run and five hits. Zobrist hit a solo shot off C.J. Wilson (2-2) during a two-run third.

Albert Pujols went 0 for 3, including two strikeouts, extending his hitless streak to 19 at-bats.

Royals 8, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Billy Butler hit two of Kansas City's four home runs to help the Royals snap a 12-game losing streak.

Butler's two-run blast off Ubaldo Jimenez (2-1) put the Royals ahead in the first. He added a solo shot in the ninth off reliever Jairo Asencio, following Alex Gordon's three-run homer against the reliever.

Eric Hosmer's two-run shot in the fifth made it 4-0 - the Royals' largest lead since April 8, when they beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-3.

Orioles 3, Blue Jays 0

In Baltimore, Jason Hammel pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Wilson Betemit and Chris Davis homered.

After limiting Toronto to one run on Tuesday, Baltimore became the first team this season to shut out the Blue Jays. The Orioles are 4-1 against Toronto after going 6-12 last year.

Hammel (3-0) struck out seven and walked one in lowering his ERA to 1.73 over four starts.

Athletics 5, White Sox 4, 14 innings

In Oakland, Kila Ka'aihue blooped a winning single in the 14th inning soon after Yoenis Cespedes' tying two-run homer.

Cespedes delivered his fifth homer of the season against Hector Santiago (0-1) after Chicago took the lead in the top half. Then Ka'aihue came through with one out in a game that lasted 3 hours, 56 minutes.

Jim Miller (1-0) struck out Brent Lillibridge for his first major league win after being called up earlier in the day.

Yankees RHP Pineda out for season

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) New York Yankees starter Michael Pineda will miss the entire season because of a tear in the labrum of his right shoulder.

The Yankees said the right-hander will have arthroscopic surgery Tuesday in New York and be out for about a year.

''It's a loss,'' manager Joe Girardi said Wednesday. ''He was a guy that we were counting on this year. We traded for him, and unfortunately he's hurt.''

New York acquired Pineda from Seattle in January, giving up top catching prospect Jesus Montero to get the 23-year-old All-Star pitcher.

Pineda felt weakness in his shoulder during an extended spring training game Saturday, which came three weeks after he had problems in a spring training start. The tear was discovered in a medical exam after that.

When Pineda experienced discomfort in the back of the shoulder during spring training March 30, the initial diagnosis was tendon inflammation in his right shoulder.

Girardi said Pineda wasn't quite himself during spring training, but that the 6-foot-7, 260-pound pitcher was making his starts and doing his bullpens without any complaints of pain.

''He just felt like his arm was weak, so it explains why it was weak now,'' Girardi said. ''When and where and how and what we did doesn't matter now. What we have to do is more forward and try to get this kid healthy.''

Pineda was 9-10 with a 3.74 ERA in 171 innings last year as a rookie for the light-hitting Mariners. He's now going to miss an entire season, and possibly more.

''It's hard because you get a chance and you realize your dream and you have a good first year and you're looking forward to taking the things that you've learned from your first year and applying them to the second year, and you get hurt. It's a frustrating time,'' Girardi said. ''Our job is to make sure that we keep him focused on his rehab and we get him back for next year.''

The manager expressed optimism that Pineda would return healthy because he's young and strong.

''He does have youth on his side,'' Girardi said. ''And he doesn't have a ton of mileage in his arm as a younger player. That bodes well for him.''

The Yankees revealed the extent of Pineda's injury on the same day that 39-year-old left-hander Andy Pettitte made his third minor league start in his comeback from a one-year hiatus.

Pettitte allowed three earned runs and seven singles in 5-plus innings for Double-A Trenton. He struck out three and walked one, throwing 59 of his 81 pitches for strikes. Pettitte is still expected to make one or two minor league starts before possibly rejoining the Yankees.

Spurs beat Phoenix in what might be Nash farewell

PHOENIX (AP) Patty Mills scored 27 points and the depleted San Antonio Spurs beat Phoenix 110-106 on Wednesday night in a game overshadowed by the fact it could have been Steve Nash's last in a Suns uniform.

The crowd stood and chanted ''We want Nash'' with about 5 minutes to go, leading coach Alvin Gentry to put the 38-year-old point guard in the game for a few plays before removing him to rousing cheers. Nash is a free agent after this season and plans to evaluate what options are open for him this summer.

The Spurs sent Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili—as well as coach Gregg Popovich—home earlier in the day. The four will also miss San Antonio's regular-season finale at Golden State on Thursday night.

The Spurs, already guaranteed the No. 1 playoff spot in the Western Conference, won their ninth straight to remain tied with Chicago for the best record in the NBA with one game to play.

The Bulls hold the tiebreaker because they beat San Antonio in their only regular-season meeting, and the issue apparently is not that important to the Spurs given the fact they aren't playing their three stars and don't even have their coach.

Phoenix was eliminated from playoff contention with a loss at Utah on Tuesday night.

Nash had eight points and seven assists in just 18 minutes, all of his points coming in the third quarter. Completing his eighth season, the two-time league left the game with 3:08 to go in the third quarter and probably would have stayed on the sideline had the crowd not demanded his return.

As he left the court the final time to the cheers, Nash looked down but waved his right index finger briefly to the crowd.

Nash was scoreless with four assists in just 8 minutes on the court in the first half but scored eight points on 4-of-5 shooting in the third quarter.

Bulls 92, Pacers 87

In Indianapolis, Kyle Korver scored 20 points to help Chicago beat Indiana and remain tied for the best record in the league with one to play.

The Bulls and Spurs are both 49-16 heading into Thursday's season finales. Chicago hosts Cleveland, while San Antonio closes at Golden State.

Carlos Boozer scored 16 points, and Joakim Noah had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Chicago. Derrick Rose finished with 10 points on 3-for-11 shooting in 27 minutes.

Lance Stephenson scored a career-high 22 points in his first career start for Indiana, which rested Danny Granger and Leandro Barbosa with the No. 3 playoff spot in the East locked up.

Nuggets 106, Thunder 101

In Oklahoma City, Ty Lawson scored 25 points, Kenneth Faried added 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Denver beat Oklahoma City to avoid the No. 8 seed in the Western Conference.

Kevin Durant scored 32 points to extend his lead in the NBA scoring race, leaving Kobe Bryant in need of 38 points in his season finale Thursday night against Sacramento to claim his third scoring title and prevent Durant from becoming the seventh player to win three in a row.

With a win Thursday at Minnesota, Denver would be the No. 6 seed and face the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the playoffs. Otherwise, the Nuggets could fall to No. 7 and have a rematch with Oklahoma City.

Knicks 99, Clippers 93

In New York, JR Smith scored 21 points to help New York hold off Los Angeles and close in on the No. 7 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Carmelo Anthony scored 17 points for the Knicks, who will draw Miami in the first round with one more win or a loss by Philadelphia. New York closes its season Thursday at Charlotte, which has one of the worst records in NBA history, while the 76ers visit Detroit. If New York loses and Philadelphia wins Thursday, the Knicks will fall to the No. 8 seed and face Chicago.

The loss dropped the Clippers a half-game behind Memphis for the No. 4 seed in the West. Los Angeles needs the Grizzlies to lose to Orlando on Thursday to open the playoffs at home.

Magic 102, Bobcats 95

In Orlando, J.J. Redick had six 3-pointers and scored a career-high 31 points as Orlando sent Charlotte to its 22nd consecutive loss.

Ryan Anderson added 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Magic, who snapped a three-game losing streak and secured the sixth seed in the East but lost forward Glen Davis to a sprained right ankle. His injury could drain the Magic's already shallow pool of big men following Dwight Howard's season-ending back surgery.

D.J. Augustin scored 23 points for the Bobcats (7-58), who head into their season finale on Thursday needing to beat New York to avoid the worst winning percentage in NBA history.

Sixers 90, Bucks 85

In Milwaukee, Evan Turner scored a career-high 29 points and Philadelphia beat Milwaukee despite resting some key players for the playoffs.

Jodie Meeks added 27 points for the 76ers, who eliminated the Bucks from playoff contention with their victory over New Jersey on Monday.

The 76ers rested Elton Brand, Andre Iguodala, Lou Williams and Thaddeus Young.

Brandon Jennings scored 19 points for the Bucks, who were playing short-handed in their home finale. The Bucks had only nine players take the floor, with Jennings the only regular starter on the court. Monta Ellis, Drew Gooden, Ersan Ilyasova and Luc Richard Mbah a Moute all sat.

Wizards 96, Cavaliers 85

In Cleveland, John Wall had 21 points and 13 assists to help Washington extend its longest winning streak since 2007 to five games with a win over Cleveland.

Wall had 12 points, six assists and four steals in the third quarter, when he accounted for 24 of Washington's 28 points and helped the Wizards open a 14-point lead. Wall added seven rebounds and seven steals.

D.J. Kennedy led Cleveland with 12 points in his NBA debut, while Kyrie Irving, expected to be named the NBA's rookie of the year next month, played only 10 minutes - all in the first quarter - of the Cavs' home finale.

AP

San Antonio Spurs' Patty Mills (8), of Australia, drives against Phoenix Suns' Steve Nash (13) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 25, 2012, in Phoenix.

Watson tired but eager to tee it up in Big Easy

AVONDALE, La. (AP)—As Bubba Watson walked off a course carved from cypress swamp toward the TPC Louisiana clubhouse, his path was lined by autograph seekers who held out yellow pin flags bearing the emblem of a golfing shrine hundreds of miles away in the pine-covered hills of Georgia.

The buzz from Watson's Masters triumph at Augusta National has followed him to his first encore performance in New Orleans, where he'll begin the defense of his Zurich Classic victory in the tournament that opens Thursday.

He was already a crowd favorite in the Big Easy, having grown up a Saints fan three hours away in the Florida panhandle. He calls New Orleans' PGA Tour stop his "home tournament."

Now that he owns a green jacket, he's trying to learn how to handle the heightened demands on his time, a task made even more difficult by the fact that he's a new father.

"I'm pretty exhausted for this week," Watson conceded after his pro-am round Wednesday with a group that included New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "I've been playing pretty solid all year; my worst finish is 18th. So the advantage is I'm just playing good right now."

Watson said he didn't really need to get back on the tour so soon after winning his first major tournament on Easter weekend, at least as far as his golf career is concerned. Watson wasn't thinking about it like that, though. For him, his new status as Masters champion only raised the imperative to show up in a city he cares about and do what he can to help New Orleans maintain the momentum it has gained in its recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

"I thought it was the right thing to do," Watson said shortly before patiently signing dozens of the yellow Masters pin flags. "Some people were saying that, you know, I could take time off, spend time with family, but I just felt like it was the right thing to do for everybody involved with the tournament, the volunteers, everybody that's put the effort in for this week, the charities that are affected by this tournament.

"Just as defending champ, I felt like it was right for me to be here. Winning the Masters, I know it's going to be even harder. It's going to be different, tired, all those things, but all great things at the end."

In some ways, Watson's game is made for the par-72, 7,425-yard TPC Louisiana. The course favors long hitters.

"If I'm hitting the ball straight and in the fairway, then obviously length is a big factor," Watson said. "It's going to help out a lot. It makes the par 5s a little bit easier, makes the shorter holes that much better, makes the medium holes that much better."

On the par-4, 372-yard eighth hole during his pro-am round, the left-handed Watson ripped the fat pink head of his driver through the ball and sent a screaming liner bending slightly around a pair of cypress trees on the right side of the course. The ball bounded down the fairway to about 25 yards from the front of the green.

If he can keep making shots like that when it counts, he's bound to be in the hunt come Sunday.

Who else will there at the end is anyone's guess at this tournament, where six of the last 10 winners had never won a PGA Tour event before. They include K. J. Choi in 2002, Tim Petrovic in 2005, Nick Watney in 2007 and Andres Romero in 2008.

Last year, Webb Simpson nearly won his first PGA Tour title before falling to Watson in a playoff. Simpson might have won in regulation had he not demonstrated ultimate sportsmanship, notifying officials that his ball moved on the green while his putter was touching ground inches away. By rule that was a stroke penalty at the time - but not anymore. Seeing a moment like that potentially cost Simpson a title led to a rule change.

Simpson, who went on to register his first two PGA Tour wins since, is back this year, joining a solid field that also includes Keegan Bradley, Luke Donald, Steve Stricker, Justin Rose, Graeme McDowell, Peter Hansen, Choi, Watney, David Toms, Rickie Fowler and Ben Crane.

There are 14 major winners in the field, including Angel Cabrera, Trevor Immelman, Ernie Els and Geoff Ogilvy.

Bradley won the last major of last year, the PGA Championship, and he came to New Orleans exuding confidence.

"I absolutely love coming here; I love the golf course," said Bradley, second at the Northern Trust Open in Los Angeles in February. "My game is in a very good place. ... I'm starting to prove that I can play out here."

After Luck and RGIII, it's anxious time for players

NEW YORK (AP)—Andrew Luck knows exactly where he's heading, and so does Robert Griffin III.

For the rest of the college stars preparing for the NFL draft Thursday night, the anxiety is building. Nobody is looking forward to the green room at Radio City Music Hall.

"It kind of made me a little nervous when we were talking to the commissioner and he said, `You'll be back there for an hour and it'll feel like you've been back there for five days,'" Southern California tackle Matt Kalil said. "I'll be sweatin' up a storm back there, and I want to have my name called and not have to wait too long."

He shouldn't have to worry much about that. Most mock drafts project Kalil to go third overall to Minnesota after Luck heads to Indianapolis and Griffin to Washington. But he knows better than to put much stock in the predraft chatter.

"I stopped paying attention to all of that stuff," said Kalil, attending an NFL event at a playground in Manhattan. "No one really has a clue. Unless you're the GM of a team, you don't really know who a team is going to pick, so you just let it all play out."

That's the approach for the nearly two dozen other players who'll be at Radio City and have no idea when they might walk onto the stage, shake Commissioner Roger Goodell's hand and hold up the jersey of the team with which they'll start their professional career.

AP

From left, NFL football draft prospects Trent Richardson, of Alabama, Robert Griffin III, of Baylor, Andrew Luck, of Stanford, and Justin Blackmon, of Oklahoma State, pose for photos during their visit to the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, April 25, 2012. The college stars are preparing for the NFL draft Thursday night at Radio City Music Hall.

"For Luck and RGIII, they know what's going on and they know where they're going to live and all that kind of stuff," Alabama safety Mark Barron said. "A lot of us other guys, we're still wondering where we're going to be living for the next however many years."

Griffin, the Heisman Trophy winner from Baylor, is comforted by already knowing he'll be a member of the Redskins. But he thinks he might actually miss the draft-day jitters. Well, at least a little bit.

"It kind of puts yourself at ease," he said, "but it does kind of rob you of that natural draftee experience where you don't know where you're going and you're in limbo."

Added South Carolina defensive end Melvin Ingram: "Yeah, I guess that would be kind of different. You won't get that adrenaline of, `Oh, man. I hope they pick me,' when you know where you're going."

Luck will go No. 1 overall to Indianapolis after a terrific career at Stanford. Like Griffin, he is also expected to step right into a starting job as a rookie.

"I guess it's nice, but there's always competition in football and if I go out there and lay an egg and I'm not the best quarterback out there, I hope they don't start me," Luck said. "I'm excited, though. I'm going to go out there and hopefully play, obviously, and put my best foot forward and enjoy all the guys."

Luck, the son of former NFL quarterback Oliver Luck, acknowledged that it was a "relief" to know he'll be going to the Colts—even if they're starting from scratch after they released Peyton Manning.

"Obviously, the slate has been wiped somewhat clean with some new coaches and some players who have gone or left, but I'll try to come in there and work as hard as I can," Luck said. "If that means it's a rebuilding process, I guess you can label it as that. The guys I'm sure are working very hard and I just want to get out there and join them."

After Luck and Griffin, Texas A&M's Ryan Tannehill is expected to be the next quarterback taken - possibly eighth overall by Miami, where he'd be reunited with Mike Sherman. The new Dolphins offensive coordinator was Tannehill's head coach the last four years.

"If I did happen to go there, it would be good," said Tannehill, who would compete with starter Matt Moore. "It would give me some familiarity with the offense, so I think it would help ease the transition a little bit."

Oklahoma State's Justin Blackmon will likely be the first wide receiver picked, possibly as high as No. 4 by Cleveland. Notre Dame's Michael Floyd, Georgia Tech's Stephen Hill and Baylor's Kendall Wright are other receivers who might go in the opening round.

"It's a great time to come into the league if you are a receiver," said Blackmon, a two-time winner of the Biletnikoff Award as college football's top receiver. "More teams are throwing the ball a lot more, it's more wide open than ever on offense."

Other players who could be top-10 picks are Ingram, Alabama running back Trent Richardson, LSU cornerback Morris Claiborne, Mississippi State defensive tackle Fletcher Cox and North Carolina defensive end Quinton Coples.

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IT&E Voyagers, Team SCS grab 8-Ball lead

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E-Voyagers and Team SCS are now the frontrunners in Saipan Billiards Association's 2012 Summer/Winter Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after last Tuesday's games.

The IT&E-Voyagers mowed down Obyan's Poksu (59-128), 13-4, in an inter-league road match held at 19th Hole Bar & Grill to improve its overall record to 142-45 and steal the top spot in the Agingan division from Poseidon's Docomo Pacific-Home Boyz.

However, the IT&E Voyagers cling to the top spot by just a game against Poseidon's Docomo Pacific-Home Boyz (141-46), who bested the fourth place IT&E-Incredibles (117-70), 10-7, at home,

In the Obyan division, Team SCS bested former front runner Fotten Palau (91-96), 12-5, on the road to move into first place with an overall card of 93-94.

In other results, Joe's Steakhouse's New Saipan Aluminum-Hustlers (131-56) remain in third place after defeating Obyan's Crazy 8 (89-98), 13-4, in an inter-league match held at Jonny's, while Joe's-Ocean Warriors (101-86) gained some ground with a 12-5 road win over Obyan's Water Front (43-144) crew.

Host team Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (86-101) pulled off a 10-7 upset against 19th Hole's Titans (90-97), while Poseidon's Yang-Ku (84-103) went into Bammy's Restaurant Bar & Grill and routed Boom-Boom (42-145), 14-3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS pictured in this file photo, moved into first place in the Obyan division of the SBA-2012 Summer/Winter Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after beating Fotten Palau last Tuesday at Joe's Steakhouse.

CNMI

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play forcing the Chinese Taipei player to make a desperate kick towards his own goal and their goalkeeper was unable to contain it, giving us our first goal," Salas wrote in an email forwarded to NMIFA officials and parents of the 22 members of the team.

The CNMI hung onto a precarious 1-0 lead after goalie Julian Pellegrino dove for the ball twice for the saves. Then with just one minute left in the game, the CNMI was awarded a penalty kick with Hall starting the play and feeding Fruit, who eventually found the back of the net.

Tanzawa, Hall, Fruit, and Pellegrino were part of CNMI's Team A that played against Chinese-Taipei and were joined by Kennedy Izuka, William Hinson, Jordan Butcher, John Masga, Won Juong Kim, Moris Villanueva, and Joshua Galarion. The Commonwealth strikers played against Chinese-Taipei in three periods with each frame lasting for 30 minutes.

Besides Chinese-Taipei, the CNMI also dueled North Korea and Guam in the opening of the youth tournament and although the Commonwealth players failed to win, they held their ground on defense, allowing their foes to score only two goals each.

In their first game against North Korea, coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi fielded his B team led by captain Danny Auther. North Korea scored early (fourth minute) and then made another goal in the 21st minute before the CNMI tightened up its defense in the last two periods and held the former scoreless for more than an hour.

Joining Auther in the game against North Korea were his younger brother, John, Alan Hinson, Wataru Tajima, Emanuel Aninza, Gideon Borja, Jeremie Tanghal, James Ermitanio, Carlson Cruzat, Louie Calayag, and Christopher Aninzo.

The same B players also suited up for the CNMI against Guam and after allowing the latter to score back-to-back goals in the first period (4th and 6th minute), Sekiguchi's wards regrouped defensively and silenced their opponents.

"The boys are having a great time so far. They practiced hard and played hard. They have also been on their best behavior. They've made friends from most of the countries and had an impromptu dance competition with Mongolia in the hall last night (Wednesday)," Salas added in his email to the players' parents.

The game against Guam was the CNMI's last in Day 1. Yesterday, the Commonwealth youthstrikers were also scheduled to play three matches with the first game against China at 11:15am; the second versus Guam anew at 3pm; and the last against Macau at 4:30pm. The CNMI's remaining games are against Japan (Saturday at 8:30am), North Korea (Sunday at 8:30am) and Mongolia (Sunday at 11:30am).

LIZAMA

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brera, Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces' AJ Lizama, Juan Santiago-Jets II's Jeffrey Lizama, Aces' TJ Sablan, IT&E Fielders' Khobby Kaipat, Hunters' Jesus Mafnas, Marianas Cable Vision-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions' Paul Celis, D-9ers' Jeremy Atalig, and DPS Dare Program Enforcers' Vince Cabrera .

There are a number of good hitters among the eight-team field as three others are swinging over 0.450 and another seven lingering above 0.400. Statistics were based on at least 18 at bats.

The Ol'Aces' Jun Rabauliman is the current RBI leader with a dozen, while Steven Cabrera (11), Fielders' Davin Ada (10) and Sablan (10) remain close in the rear view.

The Jets II's Shane Deleon Guerrero and Hunters' Joseph Borja are tied in the home run race at three apiece with Jared Lizama and Fielders' Ian Rogolifoi still in pursuit with two each.

AJ Lizama's six triples top the category, in front of Rabuliman (4), Vince Cabrera (4), Fielders' James Aldan (3), Hunters' Jonathan Cabrera (3) and the Ol'Aces' Frankie Camacho (3).

Steven Cabrera, Saipan Shipping Company-Jets I's Tristan Javier and Jets II's Jonathan Villagomez share the lead in doubles with four apiece with seven others lurking with three.

Hunters' Jerome Reyes has crossed the plate a league-high 17 times with Steven Cabrera and AJ Lizama right there at 16 and four others at 15.

AJ Lizama (4-0) is pacing the field in pitching with seven earned runs through 19 innings (six games) off 17 hits. He leads Fielders' Keoini Kaipat (13ER/22IP/17H/2-1/5G/4.14ERA) and Lions' Davie Matagolai (29ER/21.1IP/39H/1-3/6G/9.52ERA); statistics were based on at least 19 innings.

AJ Lizama's 31 strikeouts also fronts Keoni Kaipat (27) and Matagolai (23).

Big league's Nakamura has 14 hits in 27 at bats for a 0.519 hitting rate and is the only player with at least 19 at bats swing above 0.500.

Behind him are IT&E-Fielders' Patrick Tenorio (15-32/0.469), Sen. Ralph DLG Torres-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions' Leroy Regis (13-28/0.464), Hustlers' Jeremy Lizama (13-28/0.464), Fielders' Carl Camacho (12-26/0.462), Hustlers' Brian Camacho (15-33/0.455) and MacGarette Duenas (10-22/0.455), Aces' Keoni Lizama (13-29/0.448) and Hustlers-duo Manny Flores (16-36/0.444), and Kevin Villagomez (12-29/0.414). The Ol'Aces' bubble-boy Diego Camacho (14-34/0.412) is the only other player swinging over 0.400 with five others above 0.350.

Nakamura's 12 RBIs tops the field over teammate Keoni Lizama and Hustlers-duo Kevin Villagomez and Flores.

Keoni Lizama's three home runs remain atop the list, ahead of teammate Leonard Sablan and seven others with one, while Brian Camacho, Carl Camacho, Hustlers' McJarrel Espina, Duenas and Tenorio share the lead in triples with three apiece and lead a dozen others by one.

Nakamura and Diego Camacho both have five doubles thus far with Lions' Richard (4) and Ricardo Dela Cruz (3), Flores (3) and Brian Camacho (3) also in the picture.

Diego Camacho still leads in runs scored with 14 ahead of Aces' Lamarc Iguel (13), Jeremy Lizama (13), Flores (12), Brian Camacho (12), Duenas (12) and Keoni Lizama (11).

Brian Camacho (2-0) is having an impressive first year on the Big League mound with 10 earned runs through 29 innings (8 games) off 24 hits for a league-low ERA of 2.41.

Fielders' Nathan Guerrero (16ER/25.1IP/38H/2-3/5G/4.42ERA) and Regis (28ER/36.2IP/40H/0-6/9G/5.35ERA) represent the other two hurlers with at least 24 innings of work. Brian Camacho's 46 strikeouts pace Regis (37) and Guerrero (32) as well.

FIELDERS

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came to the mound for his father at the start of the sixth inning and made it unscathed for two frames. After undergoing some control issues early on, Brandon Santos finished his shift with three strikeouts to close the top of the seventh.

The younger Santos' strong showing inspired his teammates to work around two runs in the bottom frame off two hits.

Cadiz Tenorio led off with a walk and moved to third base off a double by Ada. He was then driven to the plate with a sacrifice fly by Namelo and an out later, Reyes singled in home Ada.

The Fielders' brought their closer Elton Santos to start the eighth inning and finish them off, but he endure a few uncharacteristic errors from the start, allowing a couple Masters runners to score.

Elton Santos sat down his first man, but then plunked Cimaco Laniyo and then threw away the ball trying to pick him off at first base, helping Laniyo scamper all the way to third.

Elton Santos then plunked next batter Jess Mesa and threw it away again for the same result. Audie Maratita drove in Mesa before the Fielders could get out of the inning and Elton Santos pulled it together in the final stand.

Winning pitcher Ben Santos gave up one earned run off four hits, two walks, and a hit batsman with two strikeouts through five innings.

Namelo swung 2-for-3 with two RBIs and a stolen base; Ada went 2-for-3 with two runs; and John Reyes batted 2-for-3 with a RBI a run and two stolen bases.

The season continues on Monday night at the Tan Ko Field with the Ol'Aces (2-0) squaring off against the defending champion St. Michael's Medical Response-Angels (2-1) at 6:30pm.

Sonics, Chow It enter semis in NMC caging

The Sonics and Mixed Skills notched separate wins at the start of the playoff round in the 2012 NMC Spring Intramurals' Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium to advance to the semifinals.

Chow It saw action in the second playoff game and slipped past Mixed Skills, 41-33, while the Sonics pounded 670 in the third match, 61-26. Pecking Ducks and Bubble Yum also made it to the Final Four after winning by forfeit against DNWUURRBIT and Teletubbies, respectivtely.

In the semis games that will be played today, Pecking Ducks take on Bubble Yum and 10am, while the Sonics and Chow It collide at 11am. Winners of the semis matches will duel for the championship at 1pm.

Four of the five Sonics players who suited up against 670 finished in double figures with Adrian Palacios leading the way with his 16 points. Jason Bahillo and Brian Ajoste added 15 and 14, respectively, while Mel Cadiang chipped in 12. Jose Tudela contributed four.

In the other quarterfinal match played last Friday, Chow It drew double figures from two players and four others also made it to the scoreboard. Mixed Skills had only four players scoring with one breaking into double digits.

The eight teams that joined this season's basketball tournament played in a round-robin preliminary with Pecking Duck going undefeated in seven games to take the No. 1 ranking in the playoffs. Chow It finished second with its 5-2 card, beating the Sonics in the tiebreak, while Teletubbies came in at fourth (4-3), followed by Bubble Yum (3-4), 670 (2-5), Mixed Skills (1-6), and DNWUURRBIT (0-7).

Bubble Yum's Joe Villacrusis emerged as the top scorer in the preliminary round with his total of 116 points, while Teletubbies' Trevor Ogumoro was second with his 79. Just a point behind Ogumoro was third placer Palacios, while the Sonics' James Kintz (74 points) and Pecking Duck's Juan Iguel (63 points) rounded out the Top 5. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

OVER

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ing five in the girls U10 singles. Playing in Day 1 in the girls U10 singles at 8am are Ami Tsukagoshi, Angela Jun, Anna Calvert, Asia Raulerson, Catherine Atalig, Coume Kaga, and Hana Nelson.

For the 9am games, scheduled to compete are Conatsu Kaga, Jireh Warren, Daniel Lim, and Seiya Eda, while four matches are set for 9:30am with Amy Arenovski, Alina Ishikawa, Theecel Minor, and Mikayla Lopez playing in U18 games. Boys U15's Chris Cajigan and Eunsyu Hohn and boys U10's Michael Ren, Steven Anh are also suiting up in the 9:30am matches.

For the 10:30am games, four players—Daniel Park, Jake Lee, Nathan Nutting, and Riko Oijima—are assigned to play at AMP.

For the 11am games, slated to play in the opening matches are boys Clayton Izuka, Rafael Jones, Rintaro Miyawaki, Carol Lee, Dylan Ackerman, Haruya Eda, Hunter Thorpe, Tommy Choi, and Seok Jun Yun.

Other players competing in Week 1 are Adele and AJ, Hudkins, Aditya Rai, Alex Park, Amami Skano, Carl Dela Cruz, Carol Lee, Christian Miller, Colin Ramsey, Emily and Michael Jones, Eugene Park, Gillian Villahomez, Grace Choi, Guo Min Park, Isabel Heras, Jeffrey Seo, Jodel Fernandez, Joshua Abragan, Julia Ishikawa, Kevin Kim, Luther Lizama, Maaya Sato, Malika Miyawaki, Maria Gregoire, Melody Johnson, Mondo Taniguchi, Negahr Rastguiy, Primo Po, Robbie Schorr, Sean Lee, Steven Goodwin, Tae Yong Kim, Thea Minor, Tony Atalig, Tony Kim, Troy Young, and Vincent Tudela.

This year's defending champion in the girls division are Lopez (U15), Julia Ishikawa (U10), and Thea Minor (U18). Tammy Ackerman won last year's U12 crown, but will miss this weekend's event, as she is in Fiji for a one-year scholarship.

In the boys division, the defending champions are Alex Park (U10), Jake Lee (U15), and Rafael Jones (U18). Moris Villanueva, who is in China for a soccer tournament, took the U12 title last season.

The two-weekend tournament is the last local event that awards ranking points to junior players. At the end of the season, NMITA will compile all rankings to determine the CNMI's representatives to the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June. The Top 5 players in the ranking list in the U15 and U12 age groups and Top 4 in the U18 will earn slots on the team.

SCA MTB and Road Race 3

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

MTB short course champion Erico Castro is flanked by runners-up Rolando Canipas, left, and Harold Balana during the awards ceremony for the SCA MTB and Road Race 3 last Sunday at Mariana Resort & Spa.

Lewie Tenorio gasps for air as he heads back to the finish/start line of the MTB long course race.

An MTB race participant heads up to FEBC road.

Jerome Diyco makes a turn along a coral road.

Bikers pose for a group photo after the race.

The Top 3 finishers in the men's road bike (46-and-below age group), from left, runner-up Aldrin Sta. Ana, champion Nap Dizon, and third placer Ariel Garcia celebrate at the podium.

Bikers warm up while waiting for the start of the race.

The Top 3 placers in the women's road bike, from left, runner-up Esther Ada, champion Regina Sebial, and third placer Marian Aldan-Pierce pose for a group photo.

Ken Pierson negotiates a coral road.

Left, Vince Seman poses for the camera.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI triumphs in AFC tourney opener

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's starting 11 against Chinese-Taipei pose for a group photo before their seond game in the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia in Beijing, China, last Wednesday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U14 National Team booked a win in the opening of the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia in Beijing, China, last Wednesday.

The Commonwealth strikers pulled off a 2-0 victory against Chinese-Taipei during their second game in Day 1 of the four-day competition. Dakota Hall and Joel Fruit teamed up in giving the CNMI its second goal, while the first one was scored off Chinese-Taipei's miscue.

The CNMI versus Chinese-Taipei game was played at 3pm (5pm on Saipan) at the China National Football Training Center and according to NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas, the Commonwealth bets made it to the scoreboard at the 6:45 mark of the first half.

"Ryu Tanzawa made a great

See CNMI on Page 32

Fielders clip Masters in SML, 5-3

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The IT&E Fielders held on to surpass the Masters, 5-3, during their game in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Fielders evened out their record to 2-2, while the Masters fell to a 1-2 card.

The visiting Masters Mark Toves led off the game with a double and was driven in by Reno Celis in the top of the first inning, but the Fielders obliged with two runs in the bottom frame from Anthony Tenorio and Wenser Namelo. Tenorio drew a leadoff walk and later stole home, while Namelo double in clean up man Ryan Ada.

The Masters stranded a man at second base in the next inning and the Fielders moved ahead, 3-1, in the bottom frame off an RBI single by Eldred Sanchez, who brought in hit-batsman John Reyes.

Fielders' starting pitcher Ben Santos settled down after giving up the early run and held the Masters scoreless for the next four innings.

Masters pitcher Paul Camacho also caught his stride through the middle innings and kept his team in contention heading into the seventh inning stretch.

Fielders' Brandon Santos

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

IT&E Fielders' Wenser Namelo gets a good lead off second base during their SML game against the Masters last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Lizama, Nakamura top batting charts

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Francisco Lieto of Natibu Sports Association-Talaabwogh Falcons and Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces' do-it-all man A.J. Lizama are ahead in the Senior League's statistics race, while Harry Nakamura of Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces and Paradise Island Animal Hospital-Hustlers rookie Brian Camacho are shining in the Big League play.

Coming into Saturday's matches, Lieto has accrued 14 hits in 21 at bats for a Senior League-best of 0.667 batting average.

Completing the Top 10 are Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera-Hunters' Steven Ca-

See LIZAMA on Page 32

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

AJ Lizama, pictured at the plate in this file photo, of the Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces, is tearing up the Senior League batting and pitching stat charts.

Over 70 players in jr. tennis championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships will kick off tomorrow with 75 players competing in the two-weekend event.

Week 1 of this year's championship will feature singles games in the boys and girls U10, U12, U15, and U18 age groups, while the mini tennis (co-ed), and U13 and U18 doubles will be played on Week 2 or from May 5 to 6. Games will be played both at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Officials draws have yet to be posted as of Thursday night, but 28 games are scheduled for the opening day tomorrow, includ-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dylan Ackerman, seen here going for a baseline return during the PIC tournament early this month, is among the 75 players competing in this weekend's CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.